

# THE NEWS RECORD

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## County Will Lose 105 CETA Jobs



DAVID WYATT, principal of Madison High School, has been selected to participate in the North Carolina Leadership Institution for school principals. The appointment of Wyatt to this committee was made by Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Raleigh. Wyatt has been principal of

Madison High for the past four years. He is a native of Madison County. Wyatt has also served as principal of Walnut and Hot Springs Elementary schools, as well as West Elementary School in King's Mountain and Battleground Elementary School in Lincoln County.

As a result of big cuts in funding by Congress, 105 Madison County workers will lose their CETA jobs by the end of February.

Already, 75 of these jobholders have been terminated, effective Dec. 14. Of the remaining 30, some will be able to work until January, and the rest will go in February, according to county officials.

At the present time, there is no indication from the state government in Raleigh that any of these jobs will be refunded.

"The only talk we have heard," said Madison County finance officer David

Caldwell, "is that there will be no more funding. We don't expect to hear any more from CETA until October."

The immediate cause of the job losses is that Congress voted this fall to cut one of the largest CETA programs by 60 percent; a second was cut by 40 percent.

In September, the county was authorized by Raleigh to continue spending money on CETA salaries at last summer's level. They did so for October and November. Then in December the county was informed of the 60 percent cut in the amount that would be received for the entire year.

This meant, essentially, that

no CETA money was left; it had all been spent in two months, except for a small amount that enables the county to keep a handful of people on certain key jobs.

Of the 30 people who will be employed for another month or two, 12 work at the day care centers, five in the ambulance service, two in secretarial jobs, one as a recreation director, one as a teacher's aide, one as a cook at the jail, one as a driver, one at the landfill, and six as maintenance people at the schools and elsewhere. The county hopes to transfer some of these people to other jobs or find other funding for their jobs. Some will reach the

18-month CETA employment limit and be phased out for that reason.

Of the 75 workers laid off, the largest single group was employed cleaning debris and litter from streambanks, an effort that had received criticism for lack of effectiveness. Others were employed at the schools, day care centers, and in outreach programs doing carpentry, cleaning, driving, maintenance and teaching work.

As a result of the layoffs, the county will lose between \$17,000 and \$18,000 a week in salaries.

Earlier cuts in September

resulted in the loss of some \$7,500 per week in salaries. These cuts came about when Congress tightened the eligibility requirements for CETA jobs, ruling that no individual could hold a position for more than 18 months.

Since the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act was passed by Congress in 1973, many of its programs have come under heavy criticism — especially Title VI, which is the program suffering the 60 percent cut. Critics have charged that much CETA work is either whimsical, unnecessary, or the kind of job that should be done by local government.

## Congress Votes To Extend Important Funding Agency

The U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 301 to 99, has reauthorized the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) through fiscal year 1981.

The action was included in the National Economic Development and Public Works Act of 1979 (H.R. 2063).

The ARC has been and continues to be an important economic force in Madison

County. In the past year and a half, grants from the ARC have helped pay for compacting trucks for the Madison County Solid Waste Project, the study of returning Capitola Dam in Marshall to use for hydroelectric power generation, site work and septic tanks for the housing renovation project in Spillcorn and the soon-to-be-built Laurel Medical Center. ARC money will also be used to build a branch library in the town of Mars Hill (see The News Record, Dec. 13, 1979).

H.R. 2063 authorizes the ARC to receive \$2 billion for construction of highways and access roads during the next four years and \$340 million for other programs during the next two years.

The bill also contains amendments that broaden ARC's authority to assist housing projects, foster new initiatives to assist enterprise development, provide human services to people in remote and hard-to-reach areas, and reinstate a five-year time limit for funding new ARC child development projects (it permits exceptions to the time limit for existing projects).

According to House Public Works and Transportation Committee Chairman Harold T. Johnson of California, the ARC "is helping to reverse the long-standing economic deterioration in this region... between 1976 and 1977, the region added approximately 1.48 million jobs. However, the region still lags behind the nation and remains one of America's largest pockets of poverty."

Congressman William H. Harsha of Ohio, ranking member of the full committee, said: "The highway network of the ARC is at the base of the

total development program for the region. This highway system is already opening up the region to the rest of the country and making it easier for Appalachian people to get to jobs, housing and public services.

"The region's housing problem is one of the biggest challenges facing the commission. Almost one million homes in the region do not meet the federal definition of safe and adequate housing. One of the reasons for this is the severe lack of sites suitable for housing. H.R. 2063 authorizes the commission to use its funds to acquire land as well as meet the costs of off-site and on-site development and raise the commission's share from 10 to 25 percent."

Committee Chairman Robert A. Roe of New Jersey said, "Of the area's 19 million inhabitants, 2.7 million continue to live in poverty. Only six out of the region's 397 counties have a per capita income that has reached the national average. Despite improvements in the availability of health facilities, serious health problems continue. Infant mortality rates still exceed those in the rest of the country. There is hepatitis, streptococcus and tuberculosis, measles and rubella."

Other committee members pointed out that many communities have no sewers and no water systems; there are no local finances for road improvement and many roads are impassable to school buses.

On the plus side, accomplishments of the ARC include funding 496 primary medical and dental care projects and over 1,000 other health-related projects since 1965.

## Air Force Bombers Are Flying Low-level Missions In Madison

Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers are flying a low level training route that begins over Madison County, continues east and north through North Carolina and Virginia and west to end in southeastern Kentucky, the Air Force announced last week. The route, now called IR-75, was opened in 1976 as OB-14 and will continue to be used for an indefinite period of time.

The unarmed eight-engine B-52 Stratofortresses and swing-wing FB-111 fighter-bombers are flying the route at subsonic speeds along a centerline of an eight mile wide corridor at altitudes ranging from 750 to 2,000 feet above the ground. The route is used to measure both precision bombing and navigational training.

Aircraft do not carry bombs on these training flights, according to Air Force spokesmen. All bombing is simulated and radar scored by a ground based scoring site. Radar bomb scoring (RBS) equipment is located near Richmond, Ky. The site, using radio and radar signals, measures the accuracy of electronic signals simulating bomb releases and simulated launching of short range attack missiles (SRAMs).

Traveling easterly, aircraft begin descent from high altitude over Knoxville, Tenn., and enter the route near Hot Springs. Near Spruce Pine, the aircraft execute a left turn and head toward Jefferson. A few miles southwest of Jefferson another left turn is made

with the aircraft continuing in a north, northwesterly direction. Crossing the North Carolina-Virginia border, the flight proceeds to a point near Grundy. Crossing into Kentucky and continuing northwest, the aircraft begin the simulated bomb run north of Jackson, Ky., and terminate near Stanford.

Departing the route near Stanford, the aircraft begin to climb, turning left and exiting the pattern south of London, Ky.

Aircraft scheduled to execute an additional bomb run will maintain 3,000 feet altitude and turn left toward Livingston, then execute another left turn near Canoe, Ky., to reenter the Madison County route.

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## Energy Crisis Act Will Bring Money To The Poor For Fuel

The Opportunity Corp. of Madison-Buncombe counties has received \$206,312 for households in the two counties who qualify for the Energy Crisis Assistance Program.

Madison County will receive \$14,866, and Buncombe County will receive \$191,446.

All households with an income no higher than 125 percent of the Community Services Administration (CSA) poverty guidelines and those certified for supplemental security income (SSI) who are heads of households are eligible to receive assistance under the Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP).

The maximum amount of assistance to be paid an eligible household under ECAP is \$200. Those persons receiving

a direct payment for fuel under Aid for Dependent Children and Supplemental Security Income will only be allowed assistance between the direct payment and the maximum allowed. The total amount of funds may be used for one or a combination of two or more of the three types of program assistance listed below, but in no event must the maximum amount exceed \$200.

1) Unpaid bills: direct payments will be made to participating utility companies and fuel suppliers for unpaid bills on behalf of eligible households which, because of unpaid bills, have had or been threatened with having their utilities shut off or are unable to obtain heating fuel. No bills

will be paid that were made prior to July 1, 1979.

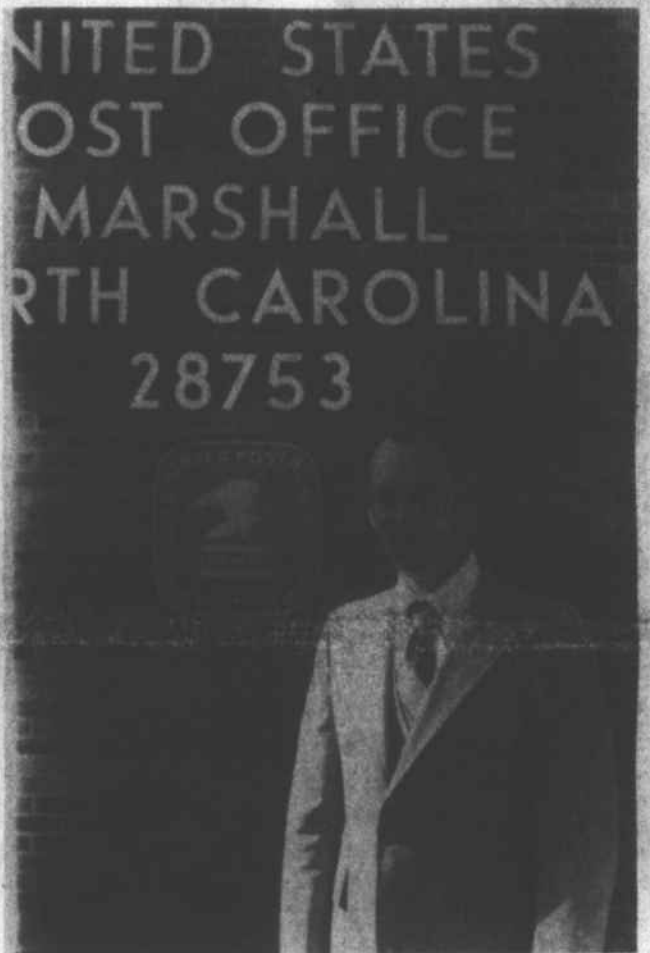
2) Advance payment: payments will be made directly to participating fuel companies and utilities on behalf of an eligible household for future heating bills that may be incurred through March 31, 1980.

3) Crisis fuel: immediate assistance in emergency situations will be provided to eligible households. Assistance will be limited to providing blankets, space heaters and emergency supplies of heating fuel, and the maximum amount of assistance will be limited to \$50 for each household (the amount expended in the crisis fund is included in the total maximum figure of \$200).



MARS HILL LIONS gathered on Dec. 17 for their annual Christmas dinner. They invited 20 county residents, most of them visually impaired, to be their guests, and presented each with a fruit basket. Harold Parkey of the WNC Industries for the Blind (standing) was guest speaker. Seated at the head table are Becky Eller; Ron Eller, Lion vice-

president; Mrs. Ralph Hogan; the Rev. Ralph Hogan; and Ed Krausse, Lion president. Entertainment was provided by singer Ronnie Rice, a senior at Madison High School who is blind, and by the Sanctimonious Seven, a group of musical Asheville Lions who have mastered the piano, accordion, drums, fiddle, base guitar, kazoo and washboard.



JAMES CRAINE stands before the Marshall Post Office on the first day of his new job.

## Craine Is Named Postmaster Here

James Alvin Craine, 40, a native of Madison County, has been appointed postmaster in Marshall.

Raymond Stines, the officer in charge since the departure of Roger Wood, will remain in the Marshall Post Office as clerk.

Craine will move to this job from his present position at the Asheville Post Office, where he was the Tour One supervisor.

He was raised on Brush Creek and graduated from Walnut High School in 1957. He went to work at the post office in Greensboro in 1959, but soon requested to be transferred to a position closer to home. In 1960 his request was granted when he was sent to Asheville as a clerk.

After three months in Asheville he joined the U.S. Army, serving most of his two-year term at Ft. Lewis, Wash. In 1962 he returned to his job in Asheville, which he held until 1973. At that time he was promoted to foreman, in charge of the mail processing unit that routes mail to other post offices throughout Western North Carolina.

In 1974 Craine had a brief chance to serve in his home area when he was assigned as officer in charge in Marshall from January through October. When Roger Wood took over here as postmaster he returned to Asheville. In 1978 he was promoted to Tour One supervisor, in charge of the overall operation at night. He held that post until his appointment to Marshall. "I've been working toward

this for the last six or seven years," he said last week. "I've always wanted to come back to where I grew up."

While in Asheville Craine completed a degree in business at A-B Tech, and took several post office correspondence courses in management.

To get the job in Marshall, he had to make formal application in competition with other applicants and then appear before an interview at the regional post office headquarters in Memphis, Tenn.

He is presently living in Alexander with his wife, Estelle; their daughter, Shannon, 15; and their son, Darren, 13. The family has lived there for 10 years, and Craine says they will soon move to Marshall. He attends the Alexander Baptist Church and works with the French Broad Youth League.

## School Board Meeting Dates Set For 1980

R.L. Edwards, superintendent of schools, announces that the regular meeting of the Madison County Board of Education will be held in the Madison County Courthouse at 10:30 a.m. on the following dates in 1980:

Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 8, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1.