

# Heard and Seen

By POP

I have to hand it to Mary Ramsey and the entire personnel of Mary's Restaurant in handling the 67 members and guests at the Madison County Optimist Club dinner meeting last Thursday night. I wouldn't believe that 67 persons could be crowded into the restaurant and fed quickly and efficiently but they were. It took some hard work and actually some "remodeling" to make room for the overflow crowd. Mary, Jimmy, Colon Bishop & Co., plus help from friends emptied the room on the right of the restaurant and put in tables. This added space, plus the regular counter seats and tables, plus the private dining room, proved adequate for the dinner meeting. I was delighted when Mary and Colon were recognized for their great interest in the formation of the club. They deserved the recognition. Others deserving recognition for serving the overflow crowd and their work in the kitchen and elsewhere includes Louise Rector, Annie Ray, Marie Meadows, Wendell Conner, and of course, Jimmy Ramsey and Colon Bishop, who always do a whole lot of everything. Congratulations, gang, on a job well done. Natalee Frost, Helen Riddle and Lettie Essick, also members of Mary's staff, also do a fine job day in and day out.

Speaking of Natalee Frost, she told me recently that while watching television she became sleepy and took off her glasses and layed them on the floor beside her and promptly fell to sleep. When she woke up she discovered that her pet dog had chewed up the frames. She said her husband thought it was "cute" but she told him he wouldn't think so when he got a bill for a new pair of glasses.

More than 90 members of the First Baptist Church here attended the dinner last Saturday night at the church when Mrs. J. Moody Chandler's Deborah Sunday School Class was honored for winning a membership drive contest on having the greatest increase over other classes. The "winners" were served by the "losers" and a good time was had by all. Following the dinner, informal singing and instrumental music were enjoyed, including guitar selections by Mike Minnix, pastor.

The Men's service at the church Sunday morning was also impressive with many of the male members having charge. It seemed odd to see and hear the all-men's choir perform. Special recognition belongs to Mike Allen who delivered the morning message. He did a remarkable job and may suddenly be known as "the Rev. Mike Allen." As usual, John Corbett, who led the music and sang a solo, was great and the other men who participated are to be congratulated.

January continues to be mild and pleasant. Some people say that we're going to have to pay for all this mild weather. At least, this is the last week of January so I guess we'll have to pay in February and March. We'll have to wait and see.



RICK THOMASON

## Thomason Joins Co-op

Rick Thomason of Marshall has been hired by the French Broad EMC as Manager Charles Tolley's staff assistant.

He replaces Mike Allen, who recently left to buy the Teague Milling Co.

Thomason's most challenging duty in his new job will be advising members how to save energy in their homes.

"What that means," he says, "is that I go out and do an 'energy audit' of members' homes, and try to determine where heat is being lost and what best to do about it. It's

amazing how much the little things — caulking, weatherstripping, turning the hot water heater down — will do to recoup energy outlay."

Thomason is a native of Greenville, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and moved to Madison County 10 years ago.

He is married to the former Ann Tilson, a native of Marshall, and has two daughters, Micah 5, and Machen, 2. He is a member of the Marshall Presbyterian Church and the Lions Club.

## Letters To The Editor

### ERA Blitz

Editor, The News Record:  
ITEM: From an article in Ms. magazine for November 1979:

"As of the month of November, 1979 the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 35 states. In order for women to be included in the Constitution of the United States, only three more states must ratify by June 30, 1982. In recognition of the importance and urgency of well-informed discussion of the ERA, the editors of 36 women's magazines published in the United States have joined together to discuss it in their November issues. As in a similar cooperative effort in 1976, each magazine will approach the subject matter in its own way, but we are unanimous in our opinion that discussion is of primary importance."

Discussion certainly is of primary importance but Ms.

magazine has been very selective. Nowhere in its article did it warn that ERA would require that women be drafted and required to serve in the military exactly like our men. The Defense Department has reported that our services are short of recruiting needs by about 25,000 men. More than likely the draft will be restored after the next election.

The editors of the women's magazines who collaborated on the ERA propaganda blitz last November know the military significance of ERA and have purposely avoided the issue. Shouldn't they be called on the carpet? Shouldn't ERA opponents be given some space in a few of our current magazines? If not, why not cancel subscriptions?

GENEVA P. WELLS

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# Optimist Club Elects Officers

Bryce Hall, vice president and city manager of the Marshall branch of First Union Bank, was elected president of the Madison County Optimist Club at the organizational meeting of the new service club last Thursday night at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall bypass.

Other officers elected to administer the new club were: first vice president, Tom Wallin; second vice president, Bruce Phillips; secretary-treasurer, Bill Stump.

Directors of the club are Dr. Charles Powell, Carol Anderson, Oscar McDevitt, Mike Allen, Roy Shook and Colon Bishop.

Various committee chairmen were appointed by President Hall as follows:

Youth activity, E.O. Burnette; community services, Charles Bradley; new club, Dedrick Brown; publicity, Jim Story; membership, Colon Bishop; program, Jerry Adams; fellowship, Troy

Allen; finance, Jack Buckner.

### 112 CHARTER MEMBERS

An unprecedented 112 men from throughout the county are listed as charter members of the new club with its primary emphasis on the development of young people.

Of the 112 charter members, 67 attended the organization meeting last Thursday. "This is perhaps the largest number of charter members and the largest attendance at an organizational meeting of Optimists in North Carolina's history," said Ronnie Duyck of the North Buncombe Club, sponsors of the Madison club.

Oscar McDevitt, the original instigator of the club, opened the meeting with a short review of the previous meetings of members of the North Buncombe club and interested local citizens. He then turned the meeting over to Ronnie Duyck of the N.B.

club, who introduced members of the sponsoring club who were present.

Among state Optimist officials present who spoke were Bill Fowler of Charlotte, governor of the North Carolina district; Kent Self, lieutenant governor, Zone 1; and Joe Poole, secretary state Optimist clubs of Charlotte.

The main guest at the dinner meeting was Bob Stark, Optimist International representative, who resides at Riverdale, Ga.

Stark, an expert parliamentarian, summarized for the overflow crowd, the history of Optimist International (OI) and explained the structure of the local organization, stressing the autonomy of individual clubs.

Following Stark's remarks, President Hall reviewed the

bylaws of the club, which were unanimously adopted.

Following the organizational meeting, the officers and directors met to discuss plans for the club.

It was announced that regular meetings will be held each Thursday night at Mary's Restaurant at 7 p.m.

"Although the deadline has passed for the listing of charter members, anyone interested in joining the club is welcome," Bill Stump, secretary-treasurer, said.

President Hall closed the regular meeting by commenting, "The future success of the club does not depend on the officers and directors alone, but on the efforts of each member. Let's get busy now and go to work on making this club highly successful for the county and its youth."

## 1980 Sign-up Period Announced For ACP

A sign-up period for the 1980 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) will begin in the Madison County ASCS office on Feb. 4 and continue through Feb. 29, announced W.B. Zink, county executive director for the Madison ASCS.

During that period the office will be closed on Feb. 18 in observance of a national holiday.

Requests for long-term agreements (practices to be carried out over a period of three years or more) must be received no later than Feb. 8 to be eligible for cost-sharing in 1980.

"Immediately after the sign-up period ends," said Zink, "all requests for cost-sharing will be reviewed by the County Committee for

eligibility, and notification will be mailed to each eligible farmer." A practice which has been started prior to approval by the County Committee is not eligible for cost-sharing, he emphasized.

The County ACP Development Group placed high priority on problems related to soil loss, water conservation, pollution and other environmental and conservation needs. Zink added that they encouraged farmers to participate in these high priority practices where needed.

He said, that a list of practices under the ACP program is available at the County Office. ASCS Programs are available to all eligible farmers without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of the newly organized Madison County Optimist Club are pictured above, left to right, seated: Bryce Hall, president; Tom Wallin, first vice president; Bruce Phillips, second vice president; Bill Stump, secretary-treasurer. Directors, standing left to right, are: Colon Bishop, Mike Allen, Dr. Charles Powell, Roy Shook and Oscar McDevitt. Carol Anderson, director, was not present for the picture. The above officers and directors were unanimously elected at the organizational dinner meeting held last Thursday night at Mary's Restaurant.

## County Band Will Organize On Feb. 4

Any person who has ever played in the Madison High School Band is invited to come to the organizational meeting of the Madison County Community Band on Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. in the Madison High School Band room. This meeting is primarily for graduates of Madison High School Band, but is open to any person who plays a band instrument. Bill Stell will conduct.

Honduras has received a \$19.5 million loan from the World Bank. The money will be used to expand hotel facilities, to improve airport facilities and to develop the Copan archeological park, an important center of the Mayan civilization.

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**The News-Record**  
NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS (USPS 388-440)

ALAN H. ANDERSON, Editor  
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Published Weekly By  
Madison County Publishing Co. Inc.  
BOX 369 MARSHALL, N.C. 28753  
PHONE: (704) 649-2741

Subscription Rates In Madison And Buncombe County		Subscription Rates Outside Madison Co.	
12 Mos.	\$4.00	12 Mos.	\$8.00
6 Mos.	\$3.00	6 Mos.	\$6.00
		3 Mos.	\$4.00

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