

Heard and Seen

By POP

The postponed St. Patrick's Day parade held here Saturday was quite a success. Long before the parade started at 1 p.m., hundreds of people came to see the event. The largest waiting group assembled in front of the courthouse while many stood on the Baptist church porch and other locations along Main Street. Several youth groups and many covered wagons were featured in the parade. Also prominent were the local fire trucks and firemen. I congratulate the Marshall Downtown Merchants Association for sponsoring the event.

Items from here and there: One of the most touching and sad occasions was held Saturday morning at Bowman Funeral Home when funeral services were held for the five members of the Carmel Mathis family who perished in a fire which gutted their home on Ray Hill Road, nine miles from Hendersonville on the night of March 19. The main chapel of the funeral home was crowded, the family room was crowded, the adjoining chapel was crowded as were the other rooms. It was perhaps the largest gathering of relatives and friends to ever attend services at the funeral home. My deepest sympathy is extended to the father, Carmel and Charlene, 16, a daughter, who both survived the blaze, and to the other relatives.

The black walnut cake, baked by Mrs. Grace English, was bought by "Bill" at the Methodist ladies' rummage and bake sale last Thursday. Grace, it was delicious. We enjoyed it very much.

NOT A PRANK

In last week's Heard and Seen column I wrote of several false alarms received by Marshall firemen in the past several weeks. One such reported "false alarm" was mentioned which occurred a few nights ago on the Walnut Creek Road in the corporate limits. I'm glad to clarify this particular instance. Upon hearing the siren about midnight, I was notified that the fire was on Walnut Creek Road and the home of Wade Huey was on fire. I quickly dressed and started to the scene. On the way, I met two fire trucks coming toward town from the Walnut Creek Road. I went on up to the Huey home and quickly saw that there was no fire there. Naturally, I was glad. I drove back to town and asked a fellow at the fire department about the fire call. He replied that it was a false alarm. This was the second such call in two weeks and I thought it timely to warn against such calls. It was not until last Thursday that I received a call from Larry Anders, who lives on the Walnut Creek Road, telling me that he noticed smoke and flames coming from a home near Wade Huey's (not Wade's) and he called the fire department, thinking he was "doing the community a service." After hearing what Larry said, I agreed that I would have done the same thing and commended him for making the call. As it turned out the fire did little or no damage. He told several firemen why he called and everyone understood. It happens that this particular incident wasn't a prank, but a justified fire call. However, other false calls have been pranks. Since Larry is a fireman, I'm sure he will agree with me that such calls are dangerous. I'm glad Larry called which was the right thing to do. What I was driving at were those who purposely call in false alarms just for "kicks." This was not the case of Larry's call.



JETER BAKER, left, recently became the first member of a new kind of county residence for retired folks, located on Rector's Corner Road south of Marshall. With him are Nancy Roberts, Edwina Mintz and Boyd Mintz, supervisors who live full-time in the two buildings, cooking, caring for and transporting the residents. The Mintzes live in one

building, and Nancy and her husband Roger live in the other. The new facilities are designed for older people on lower incomes who want to live in a home-like atmosphere. Those interested in applying for one of the 10 residences can now contact Bob Carter at the Department of Social Services, 649-2711.

Scott Says Citizens Should Have The Power To Veto Bad Laws

Former Gov. Bob Scott, in a policy statement released this week, said he intends to push for legislation that will limit any increases in the state's property taxes.

He said he will also support legislation that will restrict the growth of state government and will allow voters to reject unpopular laws passed by the General Assembly.

"Steps must be taken to de-emphasize the property tax as the funding source for all local government activities," Scott said. "As property taxes increase, more and more people who are unable to absorb the increase are forced to sell their property."

Scott said he will seek the advice of county and municipal officials in drawing up a plan that will place ceilings on the expenditures of counties where property taxes are the only source of income.

Under the plan, the growth of state government will be based on the growth of per capita income, population and

productivity, and state government will not be able to force programs on counties and cities without first agreeing to fund them.

"Because of state and federally mandated programs and state legislation, county commissioners and city councils have no choice but to levy higher and higher taxes," Scott said. "If our state government does its job of financing what it should, our counties can meet their responsibilities."

The growth of state government at a faster rate than the overall population and economy must be halted, Scott said.

Since he left the governor's office in 1973, Scott pointed out that the annual state budget has increased by almost 130 percent and the number of state employees has increased by 31 percent. During this period the population of North Carolina has increased by only 6 percent.

"The increase in state

employees is five times greater than the increase in population, and the increase in state spending is one and one-half times greater than the increase in per capita income," Scott said. "Government is the fastest growing business in North Carolina and I intend to change that."

In an effort to make state government more responsive to the needs and desires of the people of North Carolina, Scott said he will support a petition and referendum system that allows the state's voters to reject unpopular legislation passed by the General Assembly.

This system would be similar to California legislation under which the Proposition 13 tax reform bill was ratified.

Criminal Court Meets March 27

The criminal session of District Court will be held at 9:30 a.m. March 27 at the county courthouse.

The docket reads as follows: Sandra Higgins, DUI and fail to report accident, no liab. ins. and display fictitious license, fugitive warrant; Robert Thomas Soffield, viol. town ord.; Edward J.R. Kirkpatrick, viol. town ord.; Jack Stines, damage to property, hit and run; David Kirkpatrick, creating public dist., communicating threats, assault with deadly weapon; George Ramsey, assault with deadly weapon, communicating threats; Clyde Rathbone, intimidating witness.

Urias Ramsey, DUI; Jack Stines, fail to appear; Billy

Gosnell, BE&L, assault; James C. Swanger, reckless driving; Luther Aikens, damage to property, assault with deadly weapon, damage to property, second charge of assault with deadly weapon; Sam Cantrell, communicating threats; Robert L. Ogle, DUI and DWLR; Leslie Thomas, larceny; William Thomas, larceny; Claude English, DUI and DWLR, poss. fictitious license, no registration and no liab. ins.; Deborah Reed Sprinkle, simple assault.

Bobby Jack Banks, DUI; Ricky Lane Tweed, non-support; Buford Henderson, assault on female; State of North Carolina and Joann Massey Rector vs. Jerry Rector; Nina Nichols vs. Horace Sidney Ebbs; George K.

Ramsey, failure to appear; Thomas H. Hunter Jr., DUI and RD, no registration and no liab. ins.; Charles D. Purnell, DUI; Rex Douglas Allison, non-support; Watson B. Penland, DUI; David K. Kirkpatrick, failure to appear.

Richard Tesser, communicating threats, BE&L; Jimmy D. Davis, trespass; Hubert Roberts, DWLPR; Coy Lee Autrey, DUI; Johnny Waldroup, communicating threats, contrib. to delinquency of minor, taking indecent liberties with child; Charles H. Ferguson, blocking highway, DUI; Randy Roberts, damage to public prop.; John Oscar Chandler, DWLR and DUI, drugs; Gary M. Price, drunk and disruptive; Dewey W. Justice, Sp 67/55 and DUI; George Caldwell, drunk and disruptive; Nathan E. Tino, DUI; Melanie J. Bird, no registration; Jerome W. Gosnell, DUI; Roy Lee Gilliam Jr., DUI and transporting; Pady Ramsey, drunk and disruptive.

Dallas Roberts, assault on female; Robert Daniel Mace, DUI and Sp 74/55, RD unsafe tires; Rickey D. Wallace, DUI; Verna S. Green, murder; Russell Peek, assault by pointing gun, trespass; Joe Ross Chandler, drunk and disruptive; Charles Tweed, fail to stop at scene of accident; Harlice C. Perrigan, DUI; Billy Stout, larceny; Claude English, failure to appear, DWLPR, no regist. and no liab. ins., unsafe movement.

Income Reports Due For Social Security

Social Security Annual Reports of Earnings for 1979 are due by April 15, according to T.L. Johnson, field representative in the Asheville Social Security office. Johnson said reports are due from people receiving Social Security benefits who worked and earned more than the annual exempt amount in wages or self-employment in 1979.

The 1979 annual exempt amount was \$3,480 for people under age 65 all of 1979 and \$4,500 for people age 65 and over. Social Security withholds \$1 in benefits for each \$2 of annual earnings over the exempt amount.

A special monthly test is used during a person's first year of retirement. Under this test, a person can receive Social Security benefits for any month in which he or she did little or no work regardless of total annual earnings. This monthly test can be used only in the first year of retirement.

The annual report is used by the Social Security Administration to determine whether the correct amount of Social Security benefits was paid during 1979. If too much or too little was paid, any adjustments necessary is made after the annual report is received.

The annual exempt amount for 1980 is \$3,750 for people under age 65 and \$5,000 for

people age 65 and over. Most people who need to file a report should have received one in the mail. If a person did not receive a form, or lost the one he or she received, additional copies can be obtained at any Social Security office.

The people at the office will be glad to answer any questions or assist in completing the form. The Asheville Social Security office is located at 400 Executive Park, telephone number 252-8773 or if long distance, ask the operator for WX 3500.

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JAMES I. STORY, Editorial Consultant
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JULIA WILLIAMS, Advertising Manager
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Census Will Count Travelers

Although you may be away from home on Census Day April 1, the Census Bureau

wants to find you at your temporary location and count you as a resident of your home city, county and state, R.M. Taylor, manager of the local census office, said today.

TV Series

Treats Family, Consumer Law

A new TV series beginning on March 30 on Channel 33-UHF, UNC-TV will present a series of eight television programs on "Family and Consumer Law." Each program is based on legal problems concerning families at different stages of the family life cycle. The programs will be shown at 2:30 p.m.: March 30, The Acquiring Years; April 6, When Things Go Wrong; April 13, Children; April 20, Looking Ahead; April 27, Family Dissolution by Separation or Divorce; May 4, Family Dissolution by Death of Spouse; May 11, Miscellaneous (delivery of legal services).

The programs were developed by North Carolina Young Lawyers Association and North Carolina Home Economics Association. This announcement was sent by Justine Rozier, extension specialist. If there are any questions call Sharon Carter at the extension service in Marshall, 649-2411.

This special project, part of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing is called "T-Night," the "T" standing for "traveler" or "transient." "T-Night" will be March 31 throughout the United States.

On "T-Night" the night before Census Day, lodgers in hotels, motels and like places (costing \$4 per night or more) will be given individual census forms to complete. They provide space to indicate "usual place of residence." After these forms have been collected, they will be sorted at the local district office. Persons who indicate a home address elsewhere will be allocated to their appropriate home areas. Permanent residents will be counted as part of the local population where they are lodging.

Caney Fork Singing

The Caney Fork Baptist Church will hold a singing next Sunday beginning at 2 p.m.

The pastor, the Rev. Jack Davis, invites everyone to attend.

Building Permits Drop 29%

Building permits issued in November 1979 in North Carolina's 38 reporting cities of more than 10,000 population totaled \$67,808,677, N.C. Labor Commission John C. Brooks reported today. The value of the permits was down 29.0 percent from the October 1979 figure, Brooks said, and down 20.7 percent from November 1978.

According to the commissioner, housing permits issued throughout North Carolina during the first 11 months of 1979 reinforced the year's trend in multi-family dwelling construction.

Permits for multi-family dwelling units were up 29.0 percent when compared to the same 11-month period in 1978, while single-family dwelling permits dropped 19.3 percent during the same time.

Brooks said that November 1979 has only now been counted, due to a computer software problem at the Department of Commerce in Washington.

He reported that the estimated average construc-

tion cost per single-family home was \$42,985 for permits issued in November.

"Construction cost alone does not reflect the total expenditure a prospective homeowner in North Carolina would have to shoulder to buy the average, three-bedroom, bath-and-a-half home," Brooks said. He noted that the other costs generally associated with such an investment includes lot purchase, closing costs, finance charges and builder profit.

Hot Springs Seeks Rural Mail Carrier

Postmaster W.T. Whitten of Hot Springs announces that an examination for substitute rural mail carrier will be given for an opening at the Hot Springs Post Office. Applicants must be 18 years of age. Application forms and information are available at the post office.

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Hal D. Johnson, Vice President
The Northwestern Bank, Marshall