

HUD Approves \$1.63 Million For Madison

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued an invitation to three Madison County units of government to apply for community development funds totaling \$1.63 million for fiscal year 1980.

The units of government and amounts are: the town of Marshall, \$804,000; the town of Hot Springs, \$494,000; and Madison

County, \$333,000.

These funds will be used by Hot Springs and by Madison County for the rehabilitation of substandard housing units. They will be used by Marshall for water lines, sewer improvements, street paving and housing rehabilitation in the Rollins neighborhood.

The announcement was made on March 31 by congressman

Lamar Gudger, who was notified directly by the White House.

"We are delighted to learn from the White House," said Gudger, "that these preapplications have been approved. We had feared that the small cities and community programs would be cut back early under the administration's balance the budget policy, because it always seems that austerity hits rural America

first."

The three grant "preapplications" were prepared and submitted in January by several grant coordinators at Region B of the Land-of-Sky Council in Asheville. Despite the tentative sound of these documents, approval of them by HUD is tantamount to approval of the grants themselves. The step that re-

mains is for the three units of government to submit final applications and hold public hearings but the money has already cleared the most difficult hurdle on its way to the county.

In this harvest of unusual beauty, Region B has also been notified of the approval of two other grants. The town of Black Mountain is scheduled to receive \$903,000 and Henderson County

\$812,000. The 11th Congressional District, congressman Gudger's district, will receive a total of \$4,272 million in HUD funds for fiscal 1980.

"These projects," said Gudger, can go a long way toward providing needed jobs, as well as improving housing and the quality of life in our mountain communities."

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the Inside . . .
Madison VICA Members
Score High At Cullowhee
...Turn To Page 4

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Yogi's Owners Return Brown-Bagging Permit

Three days after receiving "brown-bagging" permits for Yogi's Submarine Shop in Mars Hill, the owners of the restaurant returned them to the Asheville office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control board.

As a result of strong and sudden opposition from the town of Mars Hill, Mars Hill College, the Mars Hill Merchants' Association and churches and citizens in the town, Robert Thomas Soffield and Edward Kirkpatrick agreed without serious dispute to relinquish their 90-day permit. Soffield and Kirkpatrick received both "Special Occa-

sions" and "Restaurant and Related Places" permits on March 17.

Just eight days after that, they met with Mars Hill Mayor Bill Powell, the town aldermen, and Mars Hill College president, Fred Bentley, in Dr. Bentley's conference room. Out of that meeting came the agreement not to use the permits.

"It was a fairly friendly meeting," said Mayor Powell, "and it was good to talk with them personally. They had talked through their lawyers before, and that shouldn't happen in a town this size. We talked about some of the problems they've had with the

town."

The mayor and aldermen drew up a resolution last week detailing some of those problems, including sewage runoff, altering the alleyway behind the restaurant and in complete garbage disposal.

A more serious problem, which has led to the issuance of orders of arrest for both Soffield and Kirkpatrick, has been violation of the town zoning ordinance for about one year. The men own a trailer which is parked just west of town, off Highway 213, in a residential area zoned for houses only, and the homeowners there have complained. In the meeting, Sof-

field and Kirkpatrick agreed to move the trailer.

The brown-bag permits were returned by an attorney for the two men, Reid Brown of Waynesville. Brown, according to Soffield, had previously assured them that the permits were completely legal. But the reaction of the community was so uncompromising that the permits were never used.

"At the meeting," recalled Mayor Powell, "they said they didn't realize there was this much resistance. They said that Mars Hill just wasn't ready for it yet."

The town had prepared a

package of "resistance materials" which officials delivered to Special Agent Stewart Cook of the N.C. Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control. It included the resolution, a petition bearing some 800 signatures, including those of about 250 college students, critical fire inspection report on the Yogi's building, photos showing the proximity of Yogi's to the college and letters from the pastors of two town churches (the pastor of the third church sent a letter under separate cover). Powell said the packet would be returned from Raleigh, where Agent Cook had delivered it to the state ABC Board.

Alcoholism: It's A Family Illness

"Alcoholism is a very serious problem in Madison County," says Jean Taylor, a counselor at the Blue Ridge Community Mental Health Center in Marshall. "I talk to groups all around the county about it, and at the end of the talk I ask how many people have personal knowledge of alcoholism in their own family. Usually about 90 percent of the hands will shoot up."

How can this be true in a "dry" county, where liquor is sold only by the bottle, and only from one store, the ABC establishment in Hot Springs?

Indeed, because Madison County is "dry" on paper, the Department of Human Resources in Raleigh assumed until last year that there was no need for an alcoholism

counselor here, and there were no funds for such a position. And without the revenue that is collected in "wet" counties from ABC stores, there were no county funds for an alcoholism program.

Yet the problem is real, and widespread, according to Taylor. And its effects reach far beyond the obvious evidence along roadsides, in the courtroom, and in the accident statistics. The problems of an alcoholic affect all other persons that are close to him or her, especially family members. There is an incalculable toll of suffering in the form of guilt, delinquency, physical abuse, work problems and financial trouble.

Taylor and Blue Ridge Director Joe Martin estimate

that the incidence of alcoholism in Madison County is about the same as it is nationwide — about one in eight persons. For a population of roughly 17,000, that represents just over 2,000 persons.

Jean Taylor, like most workers in the field today, defines alcoholism as a disease, and an alcoholic as someone with an illness.

"There are two main theories on the cause of alcoholism," she says. "One is that it is a character disorder aggravated by environmental causes, and the other is that it is genetic. Probably, both play a part. But analyzing the cause of a person's drinking isn't as important to me as getting at the problem itself."

And the problem, Taylor emphasizes, is never confined to the single person who has the drinking problem. It always involves others, who may suffer as much or more than the drinker. She knows this effect first-hand, since both her parents and her husband have suffered from alcoholism.

"I try to talk to a whole family at once," says Taylor.



COUNSELOR JEAN TAYLOR

"I see a lot of families, a lot of children, especially. Children in a family with an alcoholic member must be considered 'sick' because they've adjusted to living in an unnatural environment. Everyone who lives or works with an alcoholic becomes ill. They

think it's his problem or her problem alone; often they don't realize that they have been drawn into it also."

Family members adopt many behavior patterns that are not normal. They start to believe an alcoholic's

(Continued on Page 2)

A BIG BIRTHDAY was celebrated last week by William Melvin Melton of Marshall, who says he is 100 years old. Indeed, he does have a plastic card in his wallet proclaiming "Born under the sign of Pisces, 3-15-1880" there are also several other cards, including those from the Veterans' Administration, and the Social Security Administration, indicating various ages. But whatever the precise details of Melvin's long history, he is certainly among Marshall's best-loved citizens. He was born in Rocky Knob Flats, above Barnardsville, on a hillside so steep,

he says, that "a dog had to scratch a hole to bark in." He served along the Rhine in World War I, and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. After the war he moved to Marshall, where he has lived ever since, a familiar figure along Main Street, where he enjoys showing off his latest hat and handing out quarters to children. He gives away virtually all the money he doesn't use to pay his few bills, and may even borrow to give to children. "Melvin's the best credit risk in town," says Deputy Sheriff Frank Ogle. "Anybody will trust him."

3 Men Face Trial In Kidnapping Case

District Court Judge Robert Lacey found probable cause to try three Waynesville men on the charge of kidnapping an Asheville woman on Doggett Mountain.

Andrea Lawson of 165 River-view Drive in Asheville testified at the show-cause hearing in Marshall March 27

Board Of Ed Gets \$11,870 Energy Grant

The U.S. Department of Energy has approved an \$11,870 grant to the Madison County Board of Education, Cong. Lamar Gudger announced today.

The funding is for technical assistance and energy conservation under the Title III Program.

that the three men blocked her way on Route 63 as she was returning from Hot Springs to Asheville after a visit with relatives.

She told the court that she "froze" in her automobile as the men waited about six to eight feet in front of it, refusing to let her proceed. Only when she accelerated did the men give way, she said, allowing her to drive without further incident to her home.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder testified that he learned the identities of the three men over a three-day period, finally having the Waynesville police authorities arrest them.

The three men are John Wayne Sherrill, 36, Keith Fowler, 28, and Clifford Warren, 26. All are listed as unemployed residents of the Waynesville area. Sherrill has been freed on \$10,000 bond and the other two remain in

Madison County jail.

The warrant for the arrest of each of them is for "Kidnap Andrea Lawson... by unlawfully restraining her, without her consent, for the purpose of terrorizing her."

Although they did not "kidnap" Mrs. Lawson (she is married to an Asheville police officer) in the sense of removing her to a place of confinement, the description of the Doggett Mountain incident does match one line of conduct described by N.C. General Statute 14-39. The statute defines as a kidnapper "anyone who unlawfully... restrains... any other person 16 years of age or over without his consent... if such... restraint... is for the purpose of... doing serious bodily harm to or terrorizing the person so confined." The maximum penalty for this kind of kidnapping is 25 years in jail and a

\$10,000 fine.

After the show-cause hearing for Mrs. Lawson, she became involved in a fight downstairs in the courthouse with Margaret Warren, the wife of Clifford Warren. The

fight was broken up by Bob Moore, courthouse custodian, as Clifford Warren went to the courtroom for help. Court was disrupted by the fracas and both women have been cited for contempt of court.

5th Senior Meal Site Opens In The County

Sixty happy senior citizens gathered for the opening of the Upper Laurel Nutrition Site, March 24. Several visitors, including Dean Shields of WMMH, were present for the long anticipated occasion.

The nutrition site is located in the building which was previously the Ebene Chapel School lunchroom. The lunchroom has been renovated by the voluntary work of many of the citizens of the community.

Mary Ramsey is the cook and Evelyn Hill English is the site manager.

Under the experienced nutrition supervision of Maria Cox of Madison County and Penny Brown of the Regional Council of Asheville, the project is off to a good start.

The citizens of Upper Laurel Community appreciate all help that has been given to enable this much-needed project to become a reality.

A Quick Test For Alcoholism

For the drinker: Do you...

1. Need a drink in the morning?
2. Like to drink alone?
3. Lose time from work due to drinking?
4. Need a drink at a definite time each day?
5. Have a loss of memory while or after drinking?
6. Find yourself (or others) harder to get along with?
7. Find your efficiency and ambition decreasing?
8. Drink to relieve shyness, fear or inadequacy?
9. Find your drinking is harming or upsetting your family?
10. Find yourself moody, jealous, irritable after drinking?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, there is a real problem.