

Heard and Seen

By POP

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Zone dinner meeting of the Optimist Oratorical Contest was a thrilling event held Friday night at the S&W Cafeteria at the Mall in Asheville. Included in the eight schools represented were two students from this county — Danette Middleton, 13, of the Walnut Elementary School; and Greg Wilde, 14, of the Marshall School. Both of these contestants received gold medals and a right to compete in the Zone Contest. Although neither of the local students were judged first, second, or third place winners in the girls' and boys' divisions, both Dannette and Greg were presented certificates of honor for having won top places in the county. Approximately 30 Optimists, parents and friends of the contestants were present from Madison County. The contest was outstanding with all of the contestants doing fine jobs with their topic, "Challenge for the 80s." Some of us from the Madison Club heard the eight boys while some heard the girls. It's always thrilling to see and hear our local students in such events and I congratulate Danette and Greg for their accomplishments. I also congratulate the local Optimist Club for sponsoring the contest in Madison.

F.C.A. SERVICE

More than 100 members of the Madison High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes were in attendance at the First Baptist Church of Marshall on Sunday morning. In addition to the regular members and visitors of the church, many parents, relatives and friends of the FCA enjoyed a most interesting and meaningful service. The sanctuary was filled, the two Sunday School rooms were crowded and chairs were added down both aisles. Special music was enjoyed and the Rev. Mike Minnix, pastor of the church, delivered a most impressive and moving sermon. During the invitational portion of the service, more than 20 young persons (and also adults) went to the front for rededication and prayer. It was one of the most inspiring services ever held here. Ricky McDevitt, advisor of the Madison High FCA, is to be commended for spearheading last Sunday's special service for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I also want to commend the members for attending. I am sure the service meant much to them, their parents, relatives and friends. In fact, the service meant a great deal to everyone who attended, including this writer. Following the service, the young people and others enjoyed a dinner in the Fellowship Room of the church. Ladies (and some husbands) prepared plenty of delicious food for the dinner and I heard there was plenty left over after more than 100 had been served. Good going.

Clean Up Smith Creek

To the Editor:
I agree with you in wishing to keep the beautiful Western North Carolina streams clean. One of the worst polluted streams to my knowledge in this area is the Smith Creek stream that runs into Hayes

Run Creek along Highway 213 just outside or maybe joining the city limits of Marshall. If this stream was cleaned up and kept that way it would be not only a more beautiful area but a more healthful environment.

A CONCERNED CITIZEN



FOUR GENERATIONS of the family of B.C. Worley gathered Sunday, March 16, at his home on Big Pine to celebrate his 80th birthday. With him are his oldest daughter, Mrs. Novena Buckner, her daughter Winona Randall and her two children. B.C. Worley has nine children, 21 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Approximately 70 relatives and friends were present at the birthday celebration.



NANCY ALLEN'S first-graders they had only 15 minutes per gather up books as fast as they class, most students seemed to can find their favorite. Though know just which one they wanted.

Lucky Marshall Students Pick Their Own Free Book

When the media center at Marshall Elementary School opened March 31, the students were unusually eager to get inside. This was RIF Day — Reading Is Fundamental — and thanks to a federal program and to the school itself, each of the 545 students in grades K through eight had the opportunity to select and take home the book of their choice.

The students each had 15 minutes to pick out their first book. They will have two more chances during the school year, gaining a total of three books.

The most popular books proved to be those that had to do with mystery, sport, animals, adventure, science fiction, fairytales, biography, fantasy, classic tales, pictures and reference (the "Guinness Book of World Records" was a surprise favorite). Some selections were the Nancy Drew mysteries, "The Man Who Lost His Head," "Little House on the Prairie," "How to Eat Fried Worms," "Star Wars," "Where Wild Things Are" and "The Little Engine That Could."

The books were mostly paid for — 75 percent — by the federal government. The remaining 25 percent of the cost was contributed by Marshall School. They were ordered by

an RIF Committee comprised of teachers, aides, librarians and parent volunteers. The committee used the book lists of several publishers to find the best mixture of books.

The Reading Is Fundamental program was inspired by Mrs. Robert S. McNamara of Washington, D.C., in 1966. It began to function in December 1975, when Congress established the Inexpensive Book Distribution Program for Reading Motivation. This program required a 50/50 local match to federal money. In 1978 the program was amended to make the federal share 75 percent as it is today.

Marshall's RIF committee was appointed by Fred Haynie, principal of Marshall Elementary School, to help in selecting of the books to be chosen by the students and in organizing the distribution of the books. This committee consists of chairman Nancy Allen, Phyllis Moore, Carol Gunter, Lorraine Cody, Betty Ponder, Kathy Ledford, Nan Wise, Patsy Waldrop and Lucille Roberts, Madison County librarian.

The students themselves aided in the book distribution. They made attractive posters to display in various places in the community. They prepared a newsletter which they sent home to inform their

parents about the program. And the parents aided in preparing the books for distribution.

Others may write for more information about the RIF program to the Inexpensive Book Distribution Program, Reading Is Fundamental Inc., 475 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 4800, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

The Marshall Elementary RIF Committee emphasized that they had received considerable advice from Bill Brigrum, principal of Red Oak Elementary School, and Marilyn Shellenberger, Red Oak librarian.

Genealogical Meeting

The recently-formed Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society will hold its next meeting on April 8 from 7-9 p.m. in Lord Auditorium, Pack Library, Asheville. The speaker will be Betty Lawrence, supervisor of the N.C. Collection of Pack Library. Her topic is "What's in Pack Library for Genealogists?" The public is invited. For more information write P.O. Box 2122, Asheville 28802 or call 254-3311.

Alcoholism Is A Family Illness

(Continued from Page 1)

accusations, think they are responsible, and be afraid to argue or criticize. Children may withdraw from social contacts and keep friends out of the home, covering up the problem. The spouse and children may become insecure as the alcoholic becomes unpredictable, more involved in drinking as an activity and neglectful of others' emotional needs. Parents may think they've "gone wrong" in raising an alcoholic child.

Any of these problems may become so large in the life of a family member that he or she ceases to function normally. But the worst aspect of this social disease is denial. The drinker denies that drinking is a problem, and family members often go along in the deception.

"The key word in alcoholism is denial," writes Rev. Joseph Kellermann, director of the Charlotte N.C. Council on Alcoholism, "for again and again people do what they say they will not, or deny what they have done. Drinking too much, too often, is not a matter of choice. It is the first sign of alcoholism. Repeated denial, by hiding the bottle and drinking alone, reveals how important alcohol has become in helping the alcoholic feel better."

As long as the problem is denied, says Taylor, little progress can be made. The family must agree to accept treatment — no matter how painful and difficult it may be — before anything can change.

"What I try to do," she says, "is first talk to the family without the alcoholic. We spend an hour a week for six weeks. I try to help them understand the illness, and the options open to them. I ask them to keep a diary, and note any ways they are being hurt by the problem."

"Then, if the alcoholic has not asked for help, he or she is confronted with the fact of the disease, and told in detail how family members are being hurt by it. He or she is invited

to get involved with counseling here or somewhere else. If the person declines all treatment, he is confronted with the changes that are going to take place. The family sometimes has to leave home temporarily, but most often the alcoholic will decide to stay in therapy here."

Confronting an alcoholic in this way is a new treatment technique that has been very effective in overcoming the trick of denial. Too often, the people around alcoholics tend to go along with them, meekly give in to irresponsible behavior, cover up for blunders at work or with friends.

"If the alcoholic is rescued from every crisis," according to Rev. Kellermann, "there is not one chance in ten that the alcoholic will recover."

It is not easy to confront an alcoholic, to force him to deal with a problem that has gone on for years. Nor is it easy to establish a program in a county that has considered itself a non-drinking county for years. Over a year ago, Jean Taylor wanted to start an Alcoholics Anonymous program, and she began asking where there is an alcoholism counselor in the county. She learned there was none, so she applied to Blue Ridge in Asheville for funds to do the job herself. At first, she was informed that there was no need for a counselor here, because the state government had listed Madison as a dry county. But eventually she won an agreement to fund the job part-time.

After convincing the government that there is a problem, she then faced the difficulty of convincing alcoholics to come in for help. She put up posters in public places, visited county agencies, talked with judges and others in the court system, sent letters to doctors and lawyers and wrote to persons discharged from the Alcoholism Rehabilitation Center and the Detoxification Unit at Black Mountain.

People were resistant. Last

February she was working only two days a week. In June she began finding patients here and there and went to four days a week. Then in January of this year she became full-time, and is now getting walk-in patients.

"Alcohol is a depressant," she says, "a downer. That's why fights break out and people are killed. And it's very hard when you're depressed to think about getting help. That's why it's so important for those around an alcoholic to initiate the helping process."

"A lot of people think there is no help — that they are doomed to live their lives in that trap. But there is help. There is Blue Ridge, there are meetings of A.A. for the alcoholic and Al-Anon for the family. In the county, both meet at the Marshall Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. every Friday. Also, in Asheville there is the Comprehensive Alcohol Program at 233 Parkway Building, and in Black Mountain the Rehabilitation Center's 28-day program based on the 12 steps of A.A."

"There is help. The important thing is to come out and ask for it."

Girl Scouts Schedule Their Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Pisgah Girl Scout Council, Inc. will be held on April 16, at the Masonic Hall in Brevard. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. All registered girl scout adults and girls over 14 years of age are urged to attend.

This meeting is held for the election of members to the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, the report to the membership by the board of directors and the recognition of those who have given outstanding service to girl scouting.

Crime Prevention Program

The Land of Sky Regional Council and the Crime Prevention Division of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety will sponsor a regional crime prevention training program April 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Land of Sky Regional Council Office at 25 Heritage Drive in Asheville.

The training program is designed to serve Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties, those served by the Land of Sky Regional Council. The program is one of a series of training programs to be held in each of the 18 planning regions in the state. The agenda will include a presentation by L.D. Hyde, director of the Crime Prevention Division.

In announcing the program, Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Burley Mitchell said, "Gov. Hunt and I have become aware of the need for training programs such as these in addition to our other crime prevention efforts. The Governor joins me in encouraging interested citizens to participate in the training program in Asheville."

Youth Appreciation In Mars Hill

In honor of the achievements of Mars Hill young people, the Community Development Committee is sponsoring a Youth Appreciation Night April 10, at the Mars Hill Elementary School.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a covered dish supper, followed by reports by representatives from the following groups: Junior 4-H, Senior 4-H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys' Little League, Girls' Softball League, and the youth programs of Gabriels Creek Baptist, Calvary Baptist, Mars Hill Baptist and United Methodist churches.

Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and join in this night of recognition.



4-H SHRUB SALE got off to a fast start last Thursday in Joe and Helga's building on the Marshall bypass as customers flooded in to pick up their orders. Above, 4-H coordinator Gary Ealey helps Judy Sears and Joanne Powell of Mars Hill load their order. Ethel Wallin, Sharon Carter, Judy Sears, Marjorie Hunter, Joanne Powell and Gary Ealey struggle to sort out orders amid piles of shrubs, trees and root stock. "All

Editor's Column Census Forms

I noticed one of our neighbors looking pale the other day, and I asked her what had happened.

"Oh," she shuddered. "I got the long form."

I was puzzled for a second, then realized she was talking about Census 1980. Most of us got relatively short and straightforward questionnaires that took only a few minutes to fill out and mail back. But one out of five households got "the long form" — some 19 pages of detailed queries on everything from indoor plumbing to marriage, death and taxes. It was taking her the better part of a weekend morning to get through it all.

Why should we bother? Well, there are good reasons to go ahead and finish it all, even though it is an annoyance.

For one thing, a good part of Madison County's income is based on state and federal money, and this money is distributed on the basis of how many people live here and how great their needs are. Money from revenue sharing, community development, health, education, highway, job training, school lunch, and economic development programs goes a long way toward keeping this county working. If some residents are not recorded by the census, the county's share of these programs is reduced just that much.

For example, the county got half a million dollars from the federal government last year to rehabilitate older houses, and it is getting \$1.5 million this year. The 1980 census measures, among other things, the condition of our housing. If all these housing facts are not recorded, we might not get as much help in the coming years to upgrade the structures that need work.

Madison County has a special reason to answer all the census questions. As of 1970 the population of the county was thought to be on the decline. The population in 1960 was 17,217; by 1970 it was down to 16,003. By some estimates the population was supposed to shrink to only around 10,000 by 1980. Had that happened, our share of public funds would have dropped drastically. Instead, the population fall appears to have reversed itself somewhere around the middle of the decade. According to the most recent figures, it is back up around 17,000 again.

Our representation in Congress and in Raleigh is also based on population. And it will be all but impossible for county officials to plan ahead without knowing how many of us there are, and where we live and work. So if you haven't already, take the time to fill out your form and send it in.

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