

Heard and Seen

By POP

It's always nice to have someone compliment you, isn't it? A few nice words when you're sorta low makes a world of difference in the way you feel. Such was the case last Thursday night, minutes before the Maundy evening service started at the First Baptist Church here. As I started up the steps to enter the sanctuary, Chris Minnix, 9-year-old son of the Rev. and Mrs. Mike Minnix, spoke to me, saying, "Hi, Pop Story." I replied, "Hello, Chris." Then he made my day by saying, "Pop, you look younger every time I see you." I thanked him, trying to appear calm and unaffected. However, those few words from Chris set me in the right mood for the service, which was well presented, impressive, and outstanding. The special music by the choir and the two soloists, Cheryl Reeves and John Corbett, were beautifully presented. It would be difficult to find two better voices than those of John and Cheryl. Four of the Marshall pastors participated with Mike Minnix delivering the message.

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I was glad to see Anna Mae Tipton in town last Tuesday... her prolonged illness and several operations haven't caused any damage to her personality and cheerfulness. I hope she will further continue to improve and be able to be out full time.

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I visited the Marshall Fire Department a few nights ago and enjoyed watching some of the firemen shoot pool. I didn't realize that there were so many "sharks" around. They invited me to shoot a few games but I declined... I'm not in their league when it comes to handing a cue stick.

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Incidentally, if you haven't bought a Lions Club broom yet, I have some for sale at The News Record office. They are only \$3.25 per broom with proceeds benefitting the blind and Lion projects.



ROLLINS HOUSES such as this one are due for rehabilitation and, in some cases, demolition in a project to be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban

Development. The neighborhood water and street systems will also be improved in one of three projects recently approved for Madison County.

County's 'Green Thumb'

(Continued from Page 1)

cases their taxes will go up." Another big problem in Rollins is the poor state of the water system. Currently, all of the 46 target houses are served by 50-year-old, three-quarter inch water distribution piping that is clogged and corroded with rust. These lines will be replaced by new, larger lines.

Also, there are only five fire hydrants to serve the area. It would be impossible to fight fires at some of the houses, so seven more hydrants will be put in.

The streets have no ditching or curbing at present, so that after a rain the neighborhood may be flooded for hours or even days. Streets will be upgraded and catch basins and culverts installed. Three subsidiary roads will be resurfaced.

In charge of the project will be the mayor and board of aldermen. There will also be one overall administrator, one housing expert and one secretary/clerk to administer the project. They will be complemented by a citizens' advisory committee consisting of Faye Reid, Everett Barnett, Billy Jean Haynie, Jean Taylor, Ed Niles and James Allen.

The Hot Springs money, some \$494,000, will be used to rehabilitate housing in two areas: Paint Rock Road, the section below town on the opposite side of the river against the bluffs; and South Spring St./Conway Drive. In all, 39 houses will be rehabilitated and two demolished.

The Hot Springs work will be a continuation of the projects now under way on Silver Mine and Spring Creek Road. This work is being administered by Larry McCall and Patsy Shelton, with a citizens' advisory committee consisting of Chairman Sidney Harrison, Rich West, Kenneth Sumerel, Joe Cogdill and Nellie Norton. Citizens from the new target areas will be appointed as the work there gets under way.

Madison County originally applied for \$500,000 to rehabilitate houses both in Bluff and along Lisenbee Creek. However, HUD only granted \$333,000 to the county. Because the agency stipulates that all the money must be used to complete a single project, this amount appears to be only enough to work on Bluff, where there are 28 houses due for rehabilitation and two for demolition. The kind of work will be much the same as that now being done along Colvin Creek.

According to Becky Williams, the county only qualified for these new grants by administering last year's grants as efficiently as it has. Both the Colvin Creek and Hot Springs projects, led by Sam Parker and Larry McCall, have exceeded their construction schedules so far, impressing federal grantors that the county not only needs the money but knows how to spend it properly.

A number of people have been surprised that the county can get new grants at a time of budget cutting. But, as Mrs. Williams points out, these grants were requested last year.

"This money," she says, "has nothing to do with next year's budget. Congress has already designated it as spent. Next year will be much tighter, as revenues sharing

dries up." She attributes the success of this county partly to selecting only those areas of the most serious need, and sticking strictly to federal guidelines. She says that by following both the spirit and the letter of HUD's rulebook, the county has earned a reputation that tends to draw the confidence

of granting officials. And it seems to work. There were 165 applications from the state this year, for single-purpose grants, and Madison got two of them.

In addition to Mrs. Williams, Land-of-Sky personnel who helped with the grants are Bill Watson, Kathy Hardman and Steven McConnell.

Laurel Man Dies In Blaze

A Laurel man died on Easter Sunday in a fire that consumed most of his house before the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department could reach the scene.

The victim was identified as Robert Metcalf, 52, of Spillcorn. His badly burned body was found amid the charred rubble of his bedroom, where he had been seated in a chair.

Although the cause of the fire cannot be verified, firemen at the scene estimated that it started near a wood stove located at the opposite end of the house from the bedroom.

The fire department was alerted at about 4 p.m. April 6. By the time they could drive to the fire, however, there was little to do but cool the remains of the building in order to inspect the interior. Initially there were fears that as many as five other persons were in the house, but no other bodies were found.

The house was located in a remote section of Spillcorn, past the end of the state-maintained Colvin Creek road, up a rutted, unimproved track that slowed the fire trucks to a crawl. It was about 25 miles from Marshall.

Firemen estimated that the house had been burning about two hours before the call came in. The first call was to the sheriff's office, because of the fear that several people might be trapped in the blaze. The sheriff then called the fire department.

The house was approximately half a mile from the

nearest neighbors, so that no one noticed the blaze at first.

Despite the severity of the burn, a picture, some keys and a receipt in Metcalf's billfold survived the flames, enabling identification to be made.

Two smaller fires last week drew fire trucks. A trailer belonging to Clarence Connor of Ivy Hill Road was destroyed on April 3 along with a stack of lumber. The trailer and its contents were valued at about \$400. Also, on April 7 the fire department extinguished a brush fire on the property of Roger Slagle of Rector Corner Road.

The News-Record

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Letter To The Editor

Editor, The News Record:

There is some concern based on events of last summer, not only in Madison County but elsewhere, that adult softball is growing increasingly violent. Some say that the level of "professional" competition that some teams strive for threatens to destroy the experience for those who just want to play softball. For truly the purpose of the summer league is not to win at all costs but to participate with family and friends in one of America's most popular summer pastimes.

Some might scoff at the idea of playing for anything less than blood but violent behavior, words or actions, will not be tolerated in the Madison league — it ruins the game for everyone. Offenders will be dismissed from the league. The energy of life is too precious to be wasted on violence, especially when involved in an activity of recreation and enjoyment.

It would be sad to see the adult softball program destroyed by immature

behavior. Sportsmanship is the key. The small child watching his father or brother raging at an umpire, throwing his bat or kicking the dirt will be likely to copy that behavior when he plays. The adults must set the good example for the children, and that good example is called sportsmanship.

Important points of behavior and sportsmanship will be discussed at the league meetings, the times and locations of which will be announced next week.

I am confident that this summer season will be a quiet one. A great deal was learned last summer, and hopefully old mistakes will not be replayed. The most important thing for the adult participants to remember is that they hold the key to the future of the program. We must acknowledge our responsibility to conduct the season in an atmosphere of good will and good sportsmanship. Our children are watching.

KEVIN MORLEY
Recreation Director

A Mars Hill Student Dies In Easter Wreck

A student at Mars Hill College was killed, along with the rest of her family and a truck driver in what may have been the worst highway accident in Haywood County history.

Doris Wilson, 19, was a passenger in the front seat of the family's Subaru station wagon. Her father, Dr. Charles Jefferson Wilson, a Spruce Pine physician, 46, was driving, and Greg Wilson, 13, and Dana Wilson, 17, were in the rear seats. A truck tractor, with no trailer, unaccountably swerved left across the low concrete median into the path of the station wagon at the Canton exit at Interstate 40 on Saturday afternoon.

A federal investigation of the crash is under way, but as yet there is no reason known for the truck driver's loss of control. He was identified as Alfred James McFarland, 53, of Smithfield.

The Wilson family were on their way to Gatlinburg, Tenn., on an Easter holiday camping trip. The truck driver was headed home from Oklahoma, where he worked, for the holiday.

Fuel from both vehicles caused an explosion after the impact that was heard for miles. All the victims were burned beyond recognition.

Tragedy had already struck the Wilson family a year ago when Mrs. Wilson died of cancer.

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