

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

79th Year No. 30

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

THURSDAY, July 24, 1980

15¢ Per Copy

On the Inside . . .

Madison 4-Hers Made
Camp-And Friends.
Story On Page 10.

School Board Says No More Transfers To Buncombe

Madison Pupils To Stay In County

Madison County Board of Education announced this morning that it is going to assign Madison County students who have been attending Buncombe County schools to schools in Madison County.

An unknown number of students who reside in Madison County have been permitted to attend Buncombe schools. The effect is to lower the Madison County student enrollment, costing the Madison school system teachers on its state allotment.

The Madison County Board of Education had received applications from parents of 34 students, requesting that they be allowed to attend Buncombe schools next term, prior to Monday's called meeting of the board. All 34 requests were turned down.

The board had called the meeting to consider assignment of teachers and students. It spent most of the meeting in executive session. The meeting concluded at 1 a.m. Tuesday.

Principals from all Madison schools attended

and submitted recommendations for staff members, including bus drivers, lunchroom personnel, and custodial personnel, at their respective schools.

This morning the board issued a statement through Supt. R.L. Edwards saying that the practice of permitting Madison students to attend Buncombe schools not be continued.

The Madison board said it will "begin a vigorous enforcement of Section 115-176 of the General Statutes of North Carolina which man-

dates that each board of education assign the school children residing within its administrative unit to a public school.

"In the past a large number of students residing in the Madison County School District have been being assigned to public schools in Buncombe County by the Buncombe County Board of Education.

"This practice will be stopped.

"The Madison County Board of Education believes strongly, as does its administrative personnel, that its school system is as fine as any school system in the State of North Carolina. To allow children residing in Madison to attend schools outside the county works a hardship upon the entire school population of the county as it leads to Buncombe gaining teachers at the expense of Madison.

"This practice has resulted in a great hardship on the students of the county, and it must be stopped."

Edwards said he did not know this morning the number of children involved, but that they will be identified and that their parents will be notified by letter of the new policy.

Buncombe County Board of Education will also be notified, as well as schools that have been receiving the Madison students.

The most significant problem appears to be along the county line where students have easy access to Buncombe schools.



Draft Registration Returns, Young Men Go Sign Up

BY DAY'S END MONDAY, a total of 23 Madison County young men had registered for the draft and the only protest heard was a complaint by one young man that women should also be subject to the draft. Dean Richard Cash, 20,

(left photo) with Postal Clerk Raymond Stines, said "I don't mind registering but I hate to go. I do believe they ought to give women the equality they want and register them too." He said he liked the Navy as an alternative and

had no qualms of conscience about going. He lives with his uncle and aunt - Robert and Jean Hensley, on Worley Cove Road. Also registering was Verlon Talton, 20, (right, with Postmaster Jim Craine) of Mar-

shall Rt. 4, who said he did not care whether or not they drafted women and heard no talk of any resistance.

(Photo by Lewis Green)

Republicans Set Mars Hill Picnic

A political picnic sponsored by the Madison County Republican organization has been set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 2 at the Mars Hill Recreation Park.

Guests will include State Sen. I Beverly Lake Jr., the GOP Candidate for Governor;

Dr. John East, candidate for the 11th District Congressional Seat.

Lunch will be served by the Madison County Republican Women and the public is invited to come and meet the candidates.

Oak Manufacturing Co. Finds Business Hot

By LEWIS GREEN

The coming decade of the eighties is posing many economic problems for the nation as a whole, but in Marshall and Madison County the future holds bright potential for one.

It is the sad state of the economy and the uncertain energy situation which is planting the seeds of financial growth for The Oak Stove Company, because as people

are forced to economize and go to new methods of heat, they are also drawn toward buying the types of woodburning stoves which are produced by the company.

Company president Ron Rice, 42, a Madison County native, said that prospects are bright for big growth but that right now the firm is trying to consolidate its gains and is not necessarily trying to grow rapidly.

"We have grown and grown. Now we need to stop and catch up with ourselves," Rice said.

Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder said that a team of local civic and governmental leaders trying to attract good industry is a very happy group of men over the success shown so far by Oak.

"We are completing a big industrial park here close by this plant," he said. "This is something of a showpiece for

us to present to prospective industries. We are drawing some interest, by the way, from other firms who want to come here."

Leaving Madison County following his graduation, Rice went to Florida where he ultimately worked his way to the top of a firm there. He was president of the Division of International Register at Coral Gables, Fla., when he decided to come home again. He had no clear idea of what he wanted to do and was piddling around at first, making a woodstove as a hobby. Soon people were asking for them and the fledgling business took wing.

"I sold my first stove in 1974 for \$220," he said, describing

it as a unit about the size of a medium-sized Fisher stove. After the business lifted off he sold between 4-500 the first year.

"We doubled every year until this year," he said. "We made 9,800 stoves last year and that's as many as I want to run." He now has an investment of \$600,000 in the plant site.

"I spent a good sum last year in cash on improvements," he said, adding that his inventory as of mid-summer amounted to about \$120,000.

"Up until now we have been busy summer and winter. It didn't make any difference

(Continued on Page 7)

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Industrial Development Potential Good Here

Industrial development in Madison County continues at a slow, careful pace, but most of the groundwork has been done so that a faster development may take place.

Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder says the industrial park on Long Branch Road is now ready and that some prospects are beginning to investigate what Madison County

has to offer.

He said the idea for such a park was breached six years ago by the Madison County Industrial Development Commission and a government grant was obtained so that work on the grading might begin. Two sites are now ready, in addition to a one-half million gallon reservoir, which is now filled with water.



RON RICE, owner of Oak Manufacturing Co. in Madison County, chats about business matters with his wife, Maria, who serves the firm as bookkeeper-secretary. The couple has taken a

small enterprise which grew out of a hobby and turned it into a major woodburning stove manufacturing company employing a number of Madison County people. (Photo by Lewis W. Green)



MAYOR LAWRENCE PONDER standing on one of the industrial development sites on Long Branch Road. In the background

is the huge one-half million gallon reservoir. (Photo by Lewis W. Green)