

# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Board Denies 62 Pupil Transfers

After listening to the testimony of some 40 parents at a hearing for requests for re-assignment of students, the Madison County Board of Education granted the re-assignment of five Madison County students to the Buncombe County system Monday in their regular session in Marshall.

This action was contrary to statements made in a called meeting at the board on July 21, when Supt. R.L. Edwards stated for the board, "This board will begin a vigorous enforcement of the attendance law in Madison County."

"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 will be stopped."

A motion was made and passed at the July 21 meeting to deny request of transfer of students from Marshall Elementary School and Madison High School to Red Oak School, Leicester Elementary, Erwin Middle School, Enka High and North

Buncombe High, all located in Buncombe County.

In Monday's meeting, the board listened to statements made by attorneys Jack W. Westall, Jr. and Ron Payne of Asheville, representing the families living in the southern section of the county. The board then called on the parents to list the names and grades of the children involved in the transfer requests, and to state their circumstances and reasons for wanting their children to attend Buncombe County schools. After retiring to executive session, the school

board returned to the meeting and denied transfers to all but five students.

The majority of those granted transfers will be in the eighth grade this year, and one student will be a senior in high school. One request was kept open by the board until further information can be gathered.

"I'm pleased that some of the requests were approved," said Ed Gore of Leicester, "but I'm not pleased with the overall process that went on here." Gore went on to say that now there will be three "split families" in

southwestern Madison as a result of the school board's decisions. Some of the children in those families will attend Madison schools and some in the same families will go to schools in Buncombe.

Generally, the parents who live in the Doggett Mt. and Sandymush areas stated to the board that their "geographic and professional ties are with Leicester and Buncombe County." They said their children all go to doctors and dentists in Buncombe, and when schools are closed in Madison because of weather conditions, they are not as af-

ected by it as are most Madison residents. The parents also pointed out the "hardship on the children who would have to ride a bus one and a half to two hours to get to Madison schools when most of them are only 20 minutes away from Buncombe schools.

Larry Leake, school board attorney, stated after the final decision of the board, "The school board has defined the school district boundaries in order to protect and make this system the best that it can be. The law provides that the board will assign the children according to the best interests

of the children."

In other action, the board:

- accepted and approved letters of resignation from Barbara M. Rowder, exceptional children teacher, and Mrs. Wiener, school psychologist.
- passed a motion to accept sealed bids for items listed as junk at the school bus garage "by the lot or the piece."
- heard a report from Charles Tolley on the energy conservation program at Madison High School in which the county has saved \$47,860.80 this year as compared to last



THE COURTROOM in Marshall was almost crowded as 46 parents requested student assignments to Buncombe County from the Madison Board of Education.

## Rec Park Construction Will Get Go-Ahead

The Marshall Board of Aldermen agreed Monday night to draft a letter to the contractor for constructing the tennis and basketball courts at the recreation park showing intent of accepting the bid of \$43,378 for the work involved. The original contract bid for the work was

\$63,966, but Harle Brown, of Butler Engineering, said that after making some deletions from the project the contracting firm would after a "bottom line" of \$43,378.

Some of the items deleted after a re-evaluation of the project were a colored surface on the tennis courts, grading

and stone in the parking lot, some concrete steps and an entrance sign.

Mayor Lawrence Ponder indicated the need to "move quickly" on this project. "With inflation rising, we better not put it off," he said.

Alderman S.L. Nix countered with "let's not move too quick on this. You've got this thing cut down until all we're getting is a tennis court and basketball court for that amount of money."

Ponder pointed out that according to the census the "town has lost population and consequently revenue. We can't afford to go backward anymore. We've got to make the area more attractive for growth," he said.

## Marshall's Looking For Entertainment

Marshall Merchants Association hopes to book a carnival with rides of all kinds for a weekend in town soon.

Scheduling the carnival is one of several activities the merchants are discussing in an effort to boost entertainment opportunities in the Marshall area.

Association members attending a Thursday afternoon session spent most of their time exploring the possibility of sponsoring the rides.

They also reviewed work on the town's regular Saturday flea market, a feature the Merchants Association plans to sponsor regularly.

Planning has already begun on two parades - a parade to highlight Madison High's homecoming celebration during the fall and another to herald the Christmas holiday season. Verbal commitments have been received from two bands, and others are being approached about performing.

In other business, the staff will be the same as last year with the exception of one new English teacher, a new vocational instructor and a new exceptional children teacher.

Teachers will report to the school on August 7 and 8 to work on teaching assignments (Continued on Page 10)

## Wyatt's Prepared To Greet Students

David Wyatt, principal of Madison High School, says all is ready for the new ninth graders and returning upper classmen when the school officially opens its doors Monday, August 11. Only some minor cleanup needs to be done, he said.

Wyatt said the teaching

## Students 'Rock On' At High School

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Some people are "solid as a rock." Some are caught "between a rock and a hard place." Some like to "rock 'n roll" and some just "sink like a rock."

There are lots of ways to use rock and one of the more sensible ways is being demonstrated by 13 young men behind the Madison High School where they are finishing up construction of a rock wall that will help contain soil erosion and add to the looks of the school building and the football stadium.

It's all part of a summer employment program at the school in conjunction with the regular vocational classes taught at Madison. Wayne Robinson, bricklaying instructor and Elsberry Wyatt are

directing the work program with the help of an Employment Work Experience grant. The 13 students working on the wall are either returning vocational students or new ones that will be signing up for masonry this fall. They get paid for their labor, plus, they get one hour of academic credit for their work.

The thrust of the program is to develop good work habits, according to Robinson. "In this job, we are teaching the guys to be on time, the value of teamwork and generally preparing them for the real world of work," he said.

"I would say that 50 percent of our effort here goes to developing good work habits," he added. And, the boys can be fired if they should "mess up" too bad on the job.

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Robinson said he considers this project as "work and money going for a good cause." It's "not one of these give-away programs" in his opinion. He said the school is getting "\$50,000 worth of quality rock work done for \$24,000."

The young men began work on the wall on June 16 and the projected completion date is August 15. In that two-month period, they will have used 270 tons of rock, 4,500 feet of steel reinforcement, 70 yards of sand and 80 yards of concrete footing. All that adds up to at least one million pounds of materials in the completed wall.

As if that isn't enough to move around in two months, most of these students will begin work on a new press box for the stadium on August 11. This structure will consist of concrete block walls with a rock veneer. Announcers and scorers will occupy the upper level of the building, and a concession stand will be located in the bottom. Robinson said "hopefully we will complete the press box by September 10.

In addition to the 13 "rockers" working on the wall, there are two girls working in the same program in the school office. "Rockettes" you might say.

## GOP Candidates Stump In Mars Hill

State and local Republican candidates appeared at the Madison County GOP Picnic Saturday to address a group of approximately 40 GOP supporters on topics ranging from the "highway bid rigging system during the Hunt administration" to "putting common sense back in government in Washington."

State Sen. Beverly Lake, Jr., who is opposing incumbent Gov. Jim Hunt, charged the Hunt administration with using federal highway funds for clogging the Democratic "political machine" in North Carolina. He went on to say that the taxpayers "are not

getting our moneys worth in public education in North Carolina" under the Democrats.

"We have children who can't read or write, and they don't know what the free enterprise system is," he said, explaining that the state had legislated teaching the free enterprise system in schools, "but it hasn't been done."

Lake concluded by saying the GOP "has the finest state of candidates in our party that I have ever seen," and "we need to put some principle and character back in state government."

"I believe we need some

common sense in Washington," said William M. (Bill) Hendon of Asheville, GOP candidate opposing incumbent Lamar Gudger for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hendon, an attorney, brought his entire family along for the event, and he praised the Merchants Association Flea Market in Marshall as being a fine example of the free enterprise system.

Arriving late for the event, which was held in the Mars Hill Recreation Park, was Keith Snyder, Republican hopeful for the state Attorney General office now held by

Rufus Edmisten. Snyder, an attorney in Asheville and a former U.S. district attorney, said "there has been a 27 percent increase in crime in North Carolina under Edmisten" while Edmisten "rides around in a chauffeured limousine and goes to parties."

Other candidates introduced by Larry Stern, Madison County Republican Party Chairman, were Bill Bigger, an Asheville lawyer running for a seat in the State Senate; V.J. Willis, candidate for county tax collector; and Fay Hall, Republican candidate for register of deeds in Madison County.



Bill Hendon



Beverly Lake, Jr.