

Editorials

Volunteer Firemen

Do fires come in bunches? The members of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department must think so after this past weekend. They were busy on Friday and Saturday with a variety of fire types, each one illustrating the need for different techniques and equipment in the firefighting profession.

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Department strives for professionalism in what for the men is volunteer work. This means many hours on their own time practicing the skills and learning new ones that contribute to the dousing of fires in the safest possible manner. Though a town, Marshall has city-size fire worries. From the railroad to industrial and commercial property to the family home there exists in each a particular fire hazard and firefighting problem.

The Marshall volunteers study and practice the skills they will bring to bear in any situation that might arise. Early in 1981 the department is scheduled to study "Flammable Liquid Firefighting" preparing them should there be a "petroleum transportation incident" such as occurred several years ago with the wreck of an aviation fuel tanker. With the railroad running through town the chance exists, as much as we'd like to ignore it, of some hazardous substance causing a problem for the com-

munity. The presence of a well trained and well equipped fire fighting unit increases the chances of rapid solutions to explosive situations.

Firefighting is serious business. It's a thrill to ride the trucks and see the admiring looks of children, but those things don't count for much to firemen caught in a deep backwash of smoke when the wind shifts. Nor does it help a man when the floor he is walking on collapses beneath him. When the firemen are dragging themselves out of bed at 2 a.m. to fight a fire or dragging wet hose off the truck and spreading it on the drying rack at 3 a.m. there is all-too-little compensation other than the important one: the fire is out and all are safe.

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Department invites the public to their Open House Sunday afternoon, November 9 from 2 until 5 p.m. They'll be serving coffee and offering rides on a fire truck for the children. If there is sufficient interest they hope to demonstrate some of their firefighting techniques as well as pass on fire safety information. For the citizen who counts on the volunteer organization to help them in times of trouble this would be a good opportunity to meet the firefighters and learn about their vital and dangerous job.

Kevin Morley

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY

The Halloween costume contest held last Friday night at the Plaza Burger Parlor at the shopping center on the Marshall bypass last Friday night was a huge success. The event was sponsored by the Plaza Burger and resulted in many children and adults having a great time. Costumes of every design were worn by the contestants.

Originality was the main point in the costumes and, believe me, many of them were outstanding, especially the little boy who won first place... those who were present know what I mean by OUTSTANDING.

All of the youngsters were diked out in costumes and painted faces, making it impossible to identify most of them. To say the least, it was a great show which caused great entertainment and laughter. Not only were the smaller girls and boys dressed in appropriate Halloween colors, but also several of the adults. Following the contest many of the kids enjoyed going "tricking and treating". Congratulations to Plaza Burger personnel on promoting the contest.

It was fun.

By the time you are reading this column, the election will be over and the winners and losers will be known. I'm writing this column on Monday afternoon and have no idea who will actually win. Whoever is elected, however, deserve the cooperation of the public if they are to be efficient. The local campaigns have been clean with the minimum of mud-slinging. For this, I am grateful.

Oftentimes in the past, candidates have been content to bang away at their opponents. Now that the election is over, it would best serve everyone to forget past differences and join the winners in trying to make our country, state and nation a better place in which to live.

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If present plans go through as scheduled, I probably will not write a column for next week's issue since I'm scheduled to enter St. Joseph's Hospital this Saturday and spend a week. If all goes well, I hope to be back at the typewriter the following week.

Dr. Plemmons Certified By Medical Board

Hot Springs — Dr. Ronald L. Plemmons of Hot Springs has been named a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP) as a result of passing a certification examination offered by the ABFP. He is now certified in the medical specialty of family practice.

Dr. Plemmons joined the staff of the Hot Springs Health Program in July of this year.

The intensive 2-day written examination is designed to prove the candidate's ability in the areas of internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and community medicine.

To qualify for the examination a physician must have successfully completed three years of residency training in family practice. There are some 382 such training pro-

grams in teaching hospitals and university medical centers across the United States.

ABFP diplomates also must continue to show proof of competence in the field of comprehensive, continuing care of the family by being recertified every six years. No other medical specialty requires diplomates to prove competence on a continuing basis.

The latest group of diplomates brings the total number to more than 24,000. Most are members of the Academy of Family Physicians, the national association of family doctors. The Academy was the first national M.D. group to require members to take continuing medical study, and was chiefly responsible for securing specialty status for family practice.



Photo by N. Hancock

THE LATE AFTERNOON SUN struggles to break through dark clouds and glisten on the river as fall rushes in on Marshall and the

surrounding hills. The view is looking from Upper Bridge Street toward the west end of the island bridge at Marshall.

At School Board Meeting

Couple Seeks To Educate Child At Home

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

A Madison County couple went before the Madison County Board of Education Monday to seek approval from the board to continue to teach their 10-year-old daughter at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Holloway of Anderson Branch Road told school board members that their daughter has already completed the second and third grade in the home study course and was presently working on the fourth grade in the correspondence educational program set up by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"The course is designed to educate children from kindergarten all the way through a masters degree," Mr. Holloway said.

The Holloways said they feel every child should have a Christian education; that education should, in their opinion, promote mental, physical and spiritual growth in children. And, they pointed out that the Seventh-day Adventist home study course is "Biblically centered" in order to teach children "to overcome self so they may learn to serve God and humanity." Mr. Holloway said public education today is "self centered" and lacks the ele-

ment of spiritual development he feels is necessary for children growing up in our world.

The couple emphasized their belief in the value of education, but they said they felt public education was not teaching the "total person" which consists of a mental, physical and spiritual being.

Mr. Holloway pointed out that this particular home study course had been approved by several educational associations and the public school system in the state of Maryland. He said he wasn't asking public school systems to incorporate Biblical teachings in the schools, "That wouldn't be democratic," he said.

"We are seeking an alternative for our child, and this is the one we have chosen," he said. "We don't want to become a court case. You can't legislate religion or love. We don't believe in forcing religion in public schools," he said.

Mr. Holloway explained that the nearest Christian oriented school that his daughter could attend is 40 miles away at Pisgah. And, he pointed out that it would be impractical to try and send his child to school there. "We like this area," he said, "one of the reasons we moved here was because this area doesn't have the problems associated with larger city life."

"In recognition of the problems inherent in the public schools today, we ask that the board recognize and accept this program so that we may educate our daughter at home," Holloway told the board.

School board chairman Bob Ponder said, "We don't have the authority to approve this request. We are under state law."

School superintendent R.L. Edwards reminded the Holloways that North Carolina law states that children between the ages of 7 and 16 are required to be enrolled in a

state approved school. "If this home study course meets state requirements, if the state recognizes the program, then this board has a right to recognize it," Edwards said.

Superintendent Edwards suggested he and the Holloways place a phone call to the State Board of Education to get a legal interpretation of the matter and to find out if the state would recognize and accept the program. (Edwards was unable to contact the proper individuals in the state offices, and was waiting their return call at press time for the News-Record. He assured the Holloways he would contact them as soon as he heard from Raleigh.)

Ronald Holloway told the News-Record this was the second time he had gone before the local school authorities regarding the home study course for his daughter. After having lived in Madison County for some time, someone reported to the school authorities that he and his wife had a school-aged child that was not attending school. The school attendance counselor and Mr. Sidney Harrison, principal of Walnut School, visited the Holloway home to investigate the situation.

According to Holloway, the matter was turned over to a juvenile court counselor from Newland who, after investigating the case, sug-

gested the Holloways contact the State Board of Education in Raleigh in order to get a ruling on the matter.

We wrote a letter to the State Board of Education, and we never got a reply," Holloway said.

Finally, a phone call to the State Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh resulted in the Holloways being told that the matter was one which should be handled by the local Madison County school board.

Contacted initially, the Madison board referred the Holloways back to the state school authorities in Raleigh, Holloway said.

Meanwhile, the Holloways began teaching their daughter on the fourth-grade level of the home study course in order to maintain continuity in her education. Again recently, Harrison inquired as to why the Holloway child was not attending Walnut School.

In an effort to remove themselves from the bureaucratic merry-go-round, the Holloways returned to the Board of Education Monday to request the board's acceptance of the educational program they have chosen for their daughter. Again, they wait to hear from Raleigh and the local school board.

"If they don't rule in our favor, we will leave the community. We don't want to become a court case," the Holloways said.

Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA with Rogers Whitener. Send your suggestions for column material to Rogers Whitener, Box 376, Boone, N. C. 28602.

Herbal Remedies

In the Appalachian past, fall was not only the time to check on the food and fuel supply for the winter ahead but a period in which to examine the herbal medicine chest for expected or unexpected cold weather illness. The inevitability of congestion, cough, and the common cold almost automatically demanded that the housewife have a store of basic ingredients for the remedies prescribed for such ailments.

Vikki Coffey, a Blowing Rock resident, recently talked with kinfolk and other older citizens in this mountain town and discovered a surprising number of folk prescriptions still retained in their memory and occasionally still employed in a modern medical world.

Remedies for chest congestion she found to consist primarily of soothing concoctions to be drunk or plasters to be applied to the chest or back.

She lists some of the more or less standard remedies: For chest congestion heat mutton tallow and apply directly to the chest.

Apply a mixture of camphor, mutton tallow, soot, pine tar, turpentine, and lard to the chest.

East raw honey. Eat two to three teaspoons of oleoc fat in order to bring up phlegm.

Rub groundhog oil and goose oil on the chest and cover with a hot flannel cloth.

Wear a flannel shirt with turpentine and lard on it throughout the winter.

Mix one part mustard, four parts whole wheat flour, and warm water and spread the mixture on a cloth. Apply to the chest, diluting the mixture with additional water if it threatens to burn the skin.

Miss Coffey discovered that oldtime herbal teas constituted the most common recommendation for coughs. She lists a number of the favored remedies.

Boil a handful of mullein roots and leaves in a pint of water. Add honey or syrup to sweeten and take a spoonful at intervals.

Parch the leaves of ratsvein (ratsbane) and grind it to a powder. Place a pinch on your hand and snort it.

Make a tea of slippery elm leaves and drink freely.

Use assorted granulated or powdered herbs in boiling water to make a tea. Take three cups per day, one before each meal and another at bedtime. Suggested herbs for this mixture include tansy, wild cherry bark, hyssop, mullein, flax seed, horehound, pepperweed, white pine, spikenard, colt's foot, blue violet, palmetto berries, thyme, golden seal, red clover blossoms, and lobelia.

Remedies for the common cold Miss Coffey found in great number, listing only those most frequently recalled.

Boil pine needles to make a strong tea, adding as much quinine as will stay on the blade of a knife. Drink from time to time throughout the day.

Parch red pepper in front of a fireplace. Powder and mix with hot water and white corn liquor. Drink before meals and at bedtime.

Drink a mixture of honey and corn whiskey.

Eat onions roasted in ashes from the fireplace.

Drink the brine from kraut. This salty liquid calls for the intake of great amounts of water which will rid the body of cold germs.

Letter To The Editor

Editor:

The Bailey Mountain Run, sponsored by the Mars Hill Lions Club on Oct. 18, was very well organized and professionally carried out. The course was well marked, timers called out the times at mile markers, and roads were cleared of traffic safely and efficiently. A water station was available along the route and apples were ready for everyone at the finish line.

Members of the fire department were present to handle any emergency. The race was started with electronic timing and printed finishing times were handed out immediately.

All members of the Lions Club should take great pride in another project well done! Those of us who look part look forward to the Bailey Mountain Run next year.

Judy Sears Mars Hill

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Table with 2 columns: Subscription Rates in Madison and Surrounding County, and Subscription Rates Outside Madison Co. Includes rates for 12 mos, 6 mos, and 3 mos.

LETTERS WELCOMED

We welcome letters to the editor. All we ask is that they be reasonably brief, in good taste and contain no libelous statements. However, letters will not be published if they are not signed by one or more individuals. "Parents" or "Concerned Citizens" does not constitute a signature. Please include your return address and phone number.

G. Nicholas Hancock Editor