

# THE NEWS RECORD

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On the Inside . . .

Danny Quinn Works  
With Miniature Battle  
Scenes - See Page 9

## Teachers, Students Lodge Complaints

# Energy Standards Keep School Too Cold

"We're trying to do the best we can and still comply with the federal energy regulations," Madison High School Principal David Wyatt said Monday. "Sixty-five degrees is cold when you're sitting in a classroom. I get cold, but there is nothing I can do about it," he said.

Wyatt was responding to questions posed by the News-Record after some teachers and students had complained recently that the school was "too cold most of the time."

The complainants stated generally the all-electric high school was cold and uncomfortable, and that many times the hallways were dark because the lights would be turned out. Some said they suspected the locked and shielded thermostats were set lower than the federally mandated 65 degrees, and that some of the elements in the heating units were purposely disconnected to save on energy costs. One individual said last winter a thermometer in a classroom was indicating only 50 degrees

during the day, and he "didn't want to go through another winter like that at the school."

An unannounced visit to the school and interview with Prin. Wyatt provided some answers to the questions inherent in the complaints. Asked if any of the hall lights were turned off during the day in order to save electrical energy, Wyatt said some of the bulbs were taken out in the hallways, but the remaining lighting was still above state-required standards. "The halls are dark because the students switch the lights off," Wyatt said. "You're going to have some students who will do that from time to time."

An inspection of three randomly selected room thermostats showed that all three were set at 65 degrees as required by federal and state regulations. Thermostats were checked in the media center, room B117 and room B101.

The thermostats are automatically operated, according to J.D. Buckner, the

school maintenance supervisor, and Wyatt said each thermostat is calibrated at the beginning of the heating and the cooling seasons for accuracy by Johnson Controls, makers and installers of the units.

"We have them calibrated and checked to make sure they are working on the degrees indicated," Wyatt said. He stated the thermostats were not calibrated to function at a temperature below that which is indicated on the temperature scale.

Wyatt said he had also received numerous complaints about the lack of heat in the building, and he said the situation had gotten worse since the 65 degree mandate went into effect.

"Winter before last, each teacher was able to adjust the thermostat in the classrooms to suit their needs," he said. "They could have the temperature anywhere they wanted it. Then, last winter, we came under the 68 degree guidelines and had to install

the covers on the thermostats. This year we are under the 65 degree regulation, and that makes the conditions even worse," Wyatt said.

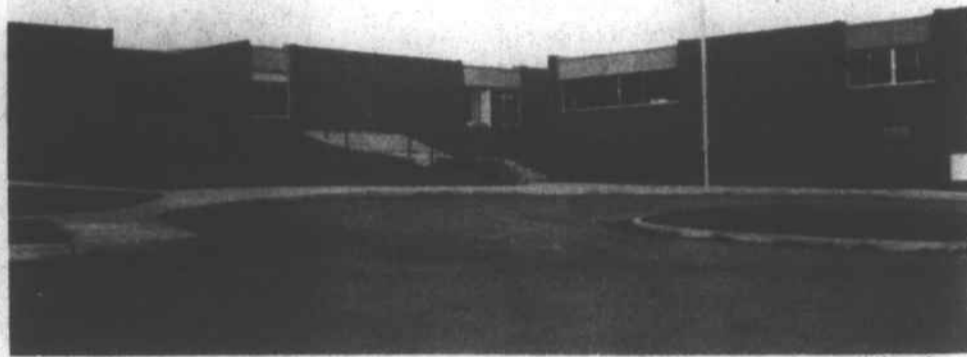


Photo by N. Hancock

### Madison High School - Too Cold For Comfort ?

He said the coldest days are on Mondays after the heat has

been turned down to 50 degrees for the weekends. "We are not allowed to heat the building above that over the weekends," he said.

During the regular school days, the heat is turned on ear-

ly in the mornings before 8 a.m., and on extremely cold days, Buckner is at the school to turn on the heat as early as 3 a.m., according to Wyatt. He added that Buckner often

comes to the school in the very early morning hours to check the heating units and change filters before the students report for the day.

Buckner told the News-Record that all elements in the heating units were connected and operating.

Wyatt said the standard time for turning the heat off was at 3:30 p.m. in the main part of the building, and at 4 p.m. in the offices during the regular school day.

Wyatt said the school was built before the energy conservation efforts became a necessity because of rapidly rising energy costs. The lack of insulation over the ceilings and the single-pane windows contribute to a great amount of heat-loss in the building. He said the school has taken other measures to reduce the energy cost "by installing time controls on the water heaters, for example, to hold our peak demand down."

He said during the last school year the annual cost of electricity at the school was



David Wyatt

cut by over \$40,000 because of the conservation measures planned by the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation and implemented by the school.

"I know it gets cold in here, but we are having to face this in our homes too," Wyatt said. "We are trying to do all that's possible under the circumstances."

# Peabody's Still Has A Problem



Photo by Scott Lunford

Bottles Along Highway Near Peabody's

By G.S. FITZGERALD

Ever since Peabody's, a package store that opened on the Buncombe and Madison county lines, came into existence there have been problems surrounding its operation.

For the first year of its operation, the owners of Peabody's, Robert T. Sofield Jr. and Edward Kilpatrick, were involved in a costly legal battle with the citizens of the Forks of Ivy community, where the store is located. The Forks of Ivy residents claimed that Peabody's was located in Madison county and the owners claimed it was in Buncombe county.

After several court injunctions and court-ordered land surveys, it was determined that Peabody's was located in Buncombe county and was not in violation of any laws concerning the sale of alcohol. The court decision was a year ago in November 1979. The residents of the Forks of Ivy have since dropped many of their charges against Peabody's, but a problem still remains. Today, residents still complain of illegal parking and foul conduct.

The business at the store over the past year has been



Rev. Hogan

very orderly and gone rather smoothly according to the owners. Robert Sofield remarked, "We've had little trouble since the boundary decision." When trouble did arise, Sofield said, "The police have been very helpful in keeping control and keeping things running smoothly."

But, the Madison County Sheriff's Department reports that the store has not posed a major problem but there has been no improvement in the situation. Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said "We've had a number of complaints. Most of these concern illegal parking, blocked driveways of the near-by residents, and complaints of

people trespassing on private property while doing business at the store."

Ponder also remarked that everyone at the store has been very cooperative and that most complaints could be handled very easily. But Ponder did say, "The parking problem has kept us busy."

The residents of Forks of Ivy have remarked that the problem of people hanging around is disturbing parking in people's yards and on the church property. Rev. Ralph Hogan said that the parking and loitering around the store is excessive at times. "Parking and loitering is the biggest problem on the weekends. The people around the store disturb our residents, especially late at night."

Since the store is located in Buncombe County, the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department would handle most complaints but David Lankford, a criminal analyst for the Investigations Department said there had been few complaints of major problems involving the store.

The department keeps statistics on the amount of incidents involving alcohol of-

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# Taxpayers Perturbed

Dozens of unhappy Madison County taxpayers made the long climb Monday to the third floor office of the County Tax Assessor in the Courthouse to protest what some called the "outrageous" increases in the valuation of their real property.

A recent reappraisal reflected a doubling or tripling of property value that has occurred in Madison County and many places in the State of North Carolina since 1973 when the last appraisal was made. State law rules that counties must reassess their taxable property every eight years and the notices recently received by county taxpayers are the result of that reappraisal.

A spokesperson for the Tax Assessor's office said that many people made the trip needlessly because they thought that the present tax rate of \$1.15 per \$100 would be applied to the new valuation.

"That is not the case" said County Commissioner James Ledford Monday afternoon. The \$1.15 rate which has been in effect for two years was applied to property values determined by the 1973 standard. The new property valuation will be in effect for the fiscal year 1981-82 and the budget for that year will not be determined until Spring or Summer of 1981.

"It is impossible at this time to say what the new rate will be," said Ledford, but he stated that the county commissioners will cut the budget as much as possible and drop the tax rate as low as possible. The uncertainty of the continuation of Federal Revenue Sharing and the needs of county agencies affect the setting of the tax rate and those are unknown quantities at this point.

Counties are required by state law to balance their budgets and, commended Ledford, the need for county services must be weighed against the ability of the taxpayers to pay for them.

The tax levy in Madison County this year provides for only twenty percent of the needed five and a half million dollars with which the county operates. The other eighty percent comes from local fines and fees, delinquent taxes and penalties, sales tax and gas tax and any other money that may come from state and federal sources.

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# Holloways Still Wait For Answer / To Educate Child

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Holloway of Anderson Branch Road went before the Madison County Board of Education on Nov. 3 to seek the board's approval to educate their nine-year-old daughter at home. The school board quoted the North Carolina compulsory attendance law for schools to the Holloways, and offered to phone Dr. Austin Simpson, Chief Accreditation Coordinator for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Simpson told the Holloways and school superintendent R.L. Edwards he would call Edwards back later in the day to give them an answer regarding the matter.

As of this past Monday, one week later, the Holloways still had no word from Raleigh, nor the local school board, telling them whether the state school authorities approved or disap-

proved the home study course used by the Holloways to teach their daughter.

Contacted at his office Monday, Superintendent Edwards told the News-Record he had heard nothing from Raleigh, but he provided the number of Dr. Simpson in the state Department of Public Instruction.

When reached by phone, Dr. Simpson said the matter had been referred to William Peek, an assistant to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Peek was out of town and unavailable for comment, but a secretary in his office suggested calling two attorneys on the Attorney General's staff who work with the state school board. Peek's secretary said either Eddie Speas or Andy Vanore could be consulted on a matter such as the one in the Holloway case.

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Eddie Speas told the News-Record he had no knowledge of the Holloway case indicating Peek had not yet brought the matter up with him at the Attorney General's office. Speas did say that the compulsory attendance law seemed to rule out the possibility of such an action proposed by the Holloways. He said the state could take the Holloways to court if it does not abide by the law, if it is enforced in his case.

The Holloways have enrolled their daughter in the Home Study Institute, a correspondence educational program established in 1969 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The home study course provides a "Biblically

centered" education program for pre-school, elementary, secondary, college and adult education students. According to Home Study Institute literature, the program has been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education for kindergarten, elementary and secondary education, and by several educational associations.

The Holloways contend that "public education lacks the element of spiritual development he feels is necessary for children growing up in the world today. He said he and his wife do not believe in forcing public schools to incorporate Biblical teachings in their curriculums, but they feel they have a right to

choose an alternative that best suits the needs of their children.

Mr. Holloway explained that his daughter was studying on the third grade level in the home course at the age of nine because he held off enrolling her in any education program feeling she was not ready to begin the schooling process at the traditional age of six or seven. Holloway cited psychologists who feel different children are ready to begin formal schooling at different ages.

Last year, when the Holloways were first approached about not having their daughter enrolled in the public school system, Mr. Holloway spoke to Superintendent Edwards about the situation. During a trip to Raleigh, Edwards spoke to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction about the Holloway's re-

quest to teach their daughter at home. According to Mr. Holloway, Edwards returned and told him that the state department had several similar cases before it, and that the Department of Public Instruction was leaving it up to the local school boards to decide in the cases.

Edwards said it would be up to District Court Judge Robert Lacey to make a decision on the matter, Mr. Holloway said. Holloway went to David Townsend, a juvenile court counselor, who in turn talked with Judge Lacey. Lacey told Townsend that the matter was in the hands of the Madison County Board of Education, according to Holloway.

The Holloways enrolled their daughter in the third grade level of the home study course, and returned to the local school board at its

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