

# Happy Thanksgiving!

Madison County Library  
Marshall, N.C. 28753 9-81

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

**On the inside . . .**  
**Ricky McDevitt Comments**  
**On Varsity Girls Basketball.**  
**Ken Edwards Has The**  
**Story On Page 8.**

79th Year No. 48

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

THURSDAY, November 27, 1980

15¢ Per Copy

## Confusion Reigns At PTA Meeting

By KEVIN MORLEY  
SPRING CREEK — Despite the cold weather that brought snow to the tops of the higher mountains, over 100 people assembled last Tuesday night in the Spring Creek School gymnasium as principal Larry Plemmons led them through a sometimes stormy lesson on how to form a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

Confusion and concern surrounded the meeting because of the reported formation a week earlier of another PTA. Plemmons commented that he "was not against the PTA," that he "wants what the parents want" and that he was "not mad at anyone." Apparently that remark was prompted by the rumor that some hard feelings existed between the Spring Creek principal and the organizers of the first PTA meeting that was held in a local church.

Clearing up the confusion was one reason for the Tuesday meeting as well as to see if interest did exist for the for-

mation of a PTA. Plemmons said he had been in touch with an official of the PTA on the state level and was prepared to work with the assembled community people on the creation of the organization which he said "promotes the welfare of children" and does "a lot of good things" for the relationship between home and school. He emphasized that the PTA "should remain nonpolitical, noncommercial and nonsectarian."

After his opening remarks Plemmons asked "How many would be willing to work together" for a PTA. There was a unanimous positive response. Then Plemmons asked that the audience divide itself up — those who were student parents and grandparents to sit in the main section, community people without children in school to sit to one side, and teachers to sit on the other. This division produced approximately 70 parents/grandparents and around 30 community people. It also produced a lengthy

"The PTA is an association where people work together without arguing." — Prin. Larry Plemmons

debate on who could belong to the PTA and who could vote.

A woman in the audience, after thanking the principal for his efforts towards forming a PTA said that according to the national by-laws the organization is open to anyone who wants to join, no matter where they live. "even Asheville" she said by way of example. That remark was greeted with boos and stamping feet from a vocal contingent in the rear of the hall.

There was general discussion on that issue but the consensus of the group seemed to be that the organization should be made up of community people.

Plemmons stated that he wanted to see four officers elected before the meeting that was over and Joe Justice immediately made the motion to elect officers which was

followed by a chorus of "seconds". A man in the community section of the hall, who earlier had offered his services as parliamentarian and who possessed a copy of PTA formation guidelines, commented that the election of officers was around "the ninth step" listed in the guidelines. Earlier he had said the first step was the election of a temporary chairman, the second was a motion to organize a PTA, and the third was a motion to accept the by-laws. That brought forth another call to elect officers.

The discussion of voting brought up the question of who would be allowed to vote; all interested people or only student parents and grandparents. One woman thought that any taxpayer should have voting privileges since taxes supported the school.

Someone asked Plemmons to define PTA. He said, "the PTA is an association where people work together without arguing." A loud burst of applause greeted his definition and he reiterated he wanted to see four officers elected and a by-law committee appointed. At this point Plemmons called for a motion to "organize a PTA" and the appropriate response was taken from the floor. The motion passed unopposed.

A motion was made and seconded that copies of the PTA by-laws be made available to the people and a sufficient amount of time be allowed for their study and at a later date officers elected. Again, there was confusion in the hall with two motions pending and no decision yet made on voter eligibility. A woman stood up and made an impassioned plea to all "to let the spirit guide you" to find "what is good for children."

Finally Plemmons called for a vote on voter eligibility and 66 said that student parents and grandparents should be the only ones allowed to vote while approximately 35 maintained that all should have a vote in PTA matters.

With that problem behind Plemmons called for nominations for officers and when the voting was over Lloyd Edwards was president, Terry Allen was vice president, Margarite Hammett was secretary and Shirley Ledford was treasurer.

Plemmons thanked all who came and announced that the next meeting would be on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the school.

Commenting on the confusion and rumors that had surrounded the formation of the Spring Creek PTA, someone said, "at least now we have one!"



Photo by N. Hancock

EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE, and hundreds of spectators turned out Saturday to take in the annual Mars Hill Christmas parade. See the parade coverage in photos on Page 3.

## Capitola Dam Redevelopment Proposed

By KEN EDWARDS  
In a joint task, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority are proposing a project to redevelop the hydroelectric generating facilities of the Capitola Dam on the French Broad River.

The proposed work has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit and will consist of repairing the existing dam and adding about six inches of concrete to the top and downstream side the entire length of the structure.

In addition, a new toe section five feet wide and from two to five feet deep would be constructed.

The project will also involve construction of a "fish lock" on the downstream side of the dam. This will allow movement of the fish across the dam.

Also, a new power house will be constructed which would require the removal of just over 2200 cubic yards of rock

and other material. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for protection and utilization of important resources.

The application form states that all factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered. These include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, recreation, energy needs, safety, and others.

The preliminary review of the work reveals that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. However, before the final decision is made, an Environmental Assessment will be prepared.

The National Register of Historic Places says that none of the properties are of particular historic value. The proposed activity will not destroy or endanger any known critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species.

The application also states that the TVA and State of North Carolina must approve before the proposed work begins.

Any person may request in writing before Dec. 12, 1980 that a public hearing be held to consider this work.

According to Rick Thomason, Energy Conservation Advisor at the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation "it depends on how quickly we get the license," as to how long it will take to get work started on the project.

He also said, "It is feasible and will cost less than buying the power from CP&L."

At present, the project, if



Capitola Dam At Marshall

approved, would be ready for operation by mid-April, 1983. Thomason said, "That could be speeded up or dropped

back" according to how things go.

He stated concerning the approximate cost of the project,

"right now, it would be a wild guess." French Broad EMC isn't ready yet to give out figures concerning cost.

## R.H. Lacey Appointed Chief Judge

District Court Judge Robert Howard Lacey of Newland was appointed this week to serve as chief district court judge of the 24th Judicial District, effective Dec. 1.

Lacey succeeds Judge J. Ray Braswell, who is retiring. His appointment was announced by Chief Justice Joseph Branch of the North Carolina Supreme Court in Raleigh.

The 24th Judicial District is composed of Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery and Watauga counties.

Lacey, a Republican, was re-elected to another four-year term Nov. 4 without opposition by voters in the five counties, who also elected Newland attorney Roy A. Lyerly, also a Republican, to fill the



Robert Lacey

Judgeship vacated by Braswell.

Lacey had originally been named to the district bench by Gov. Jim Holshouser on March 15, 1975.

## Mars Hill Names Nine To Board of Trustees

MARS HILL — Mars Hill College has announced the appointment of nine trustees to its board following the North Carolina Baptist State Convention meeting in Greensboro this week.

Eight of the nine trustees have previously served on the college's board, which is composed of 36 North Carolina Baptists appointed to four-year terms by the state convention. The

board delegates authority to the college president, approves all major policy decisions, adopts official budgets for the school and acts on other major college business.

The nine trustees appointed to new terms are Dr. W.O. Brazil of Asheville, Roy Brock of Clyde, Harold W. Causby of Shelby, John O. Corbett of Marshall, Troy Day of Kanapolis, Clyde C.

Dickson of Charlotte, Dr. Robert Owen of Canton, George Pickering of Black Mountain and W. Glenn Watts of Statesville.

Brazil is an Asheville urologist who serves as director of the American Red Cross and chief of staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. Brazil, a member of First Baptist Church, served as director of the Asheville Area Chamber of Com-

merce from 1975 to 1978 and has served two previous terms on the college's board of trustees.

Brock is an insurance executive and a member of First Baptist Church of Clyde. He has served as the charter president of the Haywood Rotary Club, president of the Robertson Memorial YMCA and a member of the board of directors for the Southeastern Region

YMCA. Brock served on the Mars Hill board of trustees from 1975 to 1979.

Corbett is a retired automobile dealer and a deacon in Marshall Baptist Church. He is a member of the Lions Club, the Citizens Committee for Better Schools and president of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation. Corbett has served three prior terms on the school's board of trustees.

The new terms will officially begin Jan. 1. Trustees retiring in January are JoAnne Thomas Alexander, the first woman chairman of the board, Dr. W. Otis Duck, a Mars Hill physician and former board chairman, Carl Meares of Fair Bluff, the Rev. Jack Noffsinger of Winston-Salem, Robert L. Rowe of Marion, Romulus Sparks of Charlotte and Mrs. W.K. Sturdivant.

## When They Take Office

When do the candidates elected Nov. 4 take office? At different times, depending on the office and level of government.

Members of the N.C. General Assembly take office on election day, according to the state constitution, but traditionally they do not assume their responsibilities until the legislature convenes the following January.

Democrats elected to the N.C. House (including Liston Ramsey and Ernest Messer) will caucus Dec. 2 to nominate House leaders for the next two years. Ramsey is the near unanimous choice for Speaker, one of the most powerful offices in state government.

The Senate caucus (including James McClure Clarke and Robert Swain) has been scheduled for Dec. 5.

The legislature will convene Jan. 14, when both senators and representatives will take the oath of office.

Near the top of the order of business will be formal election of leaders in both chambers.

Because their numbers have been so small, Republicans have made no effort to influence election of legislative officers in recent years.

Bill Hendon, newly elected U.S. representative from the 11th District, will take office Jan. 5. Installation ceremonies have been scheduled for noon at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Lamar Gudger holds the office until then.

Locally, Jena Lee Buckner, re-elected register of deeds, and Harold Wallin, re-elected tax collector, will be sworn in on Monday, Dec. 1.

James O. Brown, elected as Madison County Soil and Water Conservation district supervisor, will also take office Dec. 1.

## Public Hearing Dec. 8

The town of Weaverville will hold a public hearing Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall on a proposal to adopt a council-manager form of government.

In a council-manager form of government, the town council would hire a town manager to run the government.

Weaverville now has a mayor-council form of government in which the mayor serves as leader of town government.

The town board of aldermen will consider a resolution to amend the town's charter, adopting a council-manager form of government.

## Madison Native Found Shot

HOT SPRINGS — The body of Herman Ledford, 80, of Barbersville, Ky., was found Saturday in the woods near Gap of the Mountain Cemetery off N.C. 209, the Madison County Sheriff's Department reported.

The sheriff's department said it appeared Ledford died from a self-inflicted or accidental gunshot wound.

Ledford, a native of Madison County, left Kentucky in August and came to Madison County to visit relatives, the spokesman said. The man had been missing several months.