

We Wish You A Happy New Year

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1891

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WATER FROM FROZEN French Marshall Elementary School on Broad River covers grounds of Blannerhassett Island.

## French Broad Freezes, Floods Marshall School

Record low temperatures punished Madison County throughout the Christmas weekend, bursting pipes and causing sporadic power outages. On Monday, the frozen French Broad River overflowed its banks and poured water onto Blannerhassett Island. Some flooding was also reported on the lower end of Main Street in Marshall.

Water from the river had entered into the basement of Marshall Elementary school buildings by Monday afternoon according to the school's principal, Fred Haynie. Water continued to wash up onto the island on Tuesday morning. The exact extent of damage to the school is unknown at press time.

Marshall car dealers removed their vehicles from Main Street lots Monday as fears that the river would flood the town rose.

A portion of Main Street in front of the Mar-

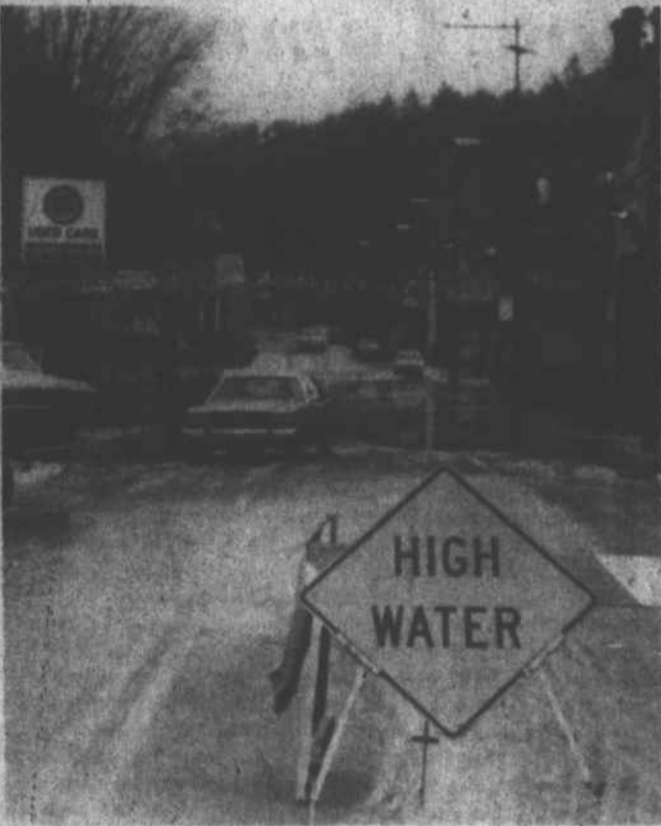
shall Presbyterian Church was closed temporarily Monday when the street became flooded. Although covered with ice, the street was open to traffic Tuesday morning.

The rising ice and water also set back work on the Capitola Dam project. Some fears were expressed for construction equipment near the river bank, but FBEMC officials expressed optimism that the project could continue after pumping operations clear the work site.

Warmer temperatures on Tuesday were expected to relieve the situation somewhat.

Ice developed on the French Broad because floodgates at the Redmon Dam were closed during the Christmas weekend. Attempts to reopen the gates were made on Monday.

Marshall mayor Betty Wild inspected the river and Marshall Elementary School on Monday.



**NOTICE**  
In Celebration of New Year's Day, THE NEWS RECORD OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 2. Deadline for the January 4th issue will be Friday, December 30th at 5 p.m. The News Record Office will re-open Tuesday, January 3 at 8:30 a.m.



ROBBIE EVANS is comforted as she watches her home being destroyed by fire. The Thursday afternoon fire on Doe Branch in Walnut was believed to have begun in the bedroom.

From The Front Pages of The News Record

## 1983: The Year In Review

By ROBERT KOENIG  
EDITOR

The year began with good news for Madison County. State officials announced that a \$700,000 grant application for housing renovations was approved. The grant will enable the county to renovate homes in the East Fork and Beartown communities and to install septic tanks in homes as part of the Clean Waters project. A portion of the grant was also to be used for the planned construction of 10 low-income homes.

The opening week of the year also saw the announcement that work had begun on a road from Spring Creek to Marshall. Transportation board member Zeno Ponder reported last week that work on the road was being delayed because of difficulty in obtaining a right-of-way from one property owner along the route of the proposed road.

In an exclusive interview with The News Record, House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey forecast a busy session for the General Assembly. Before the session in Raleigh was completed in June, lawmakers had enacted the Safe Roads Act, giving North Carolina one of the strictest drunken driving laws in the nation. The General Assembly also passed ridge law legislation and authorized a one-half cent increase in sales taxes. Both measures provided for local county approval of Ramsey's legislation.

Madison High School received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities in January and newly-elected 11th District Congressman James McClure Clarke took office while a controversy regarding his election proceeded through the courts.

Late in January, the North Carolina House of Representatives elected Liston Ramsey to serve a second term as house speaker. Ramsey is only the second man in modern history to serve two terms as House Speaker.

A Superior Court jury acquitted Salvation Army Capt. William Brittle of charges of taking indecent liberties with a minor. Snow storms closed county schools and Mars Hill College announced a plan to assist unemployed students with tuition payments.

A fire on U. S. 25-70 destroyed two businesses, Commanche Records and an H. R. Block office. The building has since been repaired and now houses two new businesses.

North Buncombe parents organized to fight a decision to build a new school in Enka instead of Weaverville. The Buncombe County Board of Education later reversed itself and has agreed to fund both projects.

### February

February opened with the announcement that Mars Hill College had accepted a grant of nearly half a million dollars to fund a

plan for cutting back on faculty and staff, freezing salaries and increasing tuition in order to achieve stability for the college.

The postal service began a program of identifying dangerous dogs on mail routes to prevent injuries to mail carriers.

Burley tobacco farmers joined together to form the Western North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association at a meeting in Lake Junaluska. Roy Ammons of Mars Hill was elected to serve as vice president of the organization.

Also in February, State Sen. Kenneth Royall proposed a one percent increase in the state sales tax to support construction of new schools and water treatment facilities. The measure did not survive committee hearings. Under pressure from North Buncombe County parents, the Buncombe County Board of Education endorsed construction of a new North Buncombe High School as well as a new Enka High School.

A Superior Court jury acquitted rest home operator Mildred Graham of charges of conducting unfair trade. The February trial was one of several court appearances for Graham in 1983.

February was dental health month and the Marshall Elementary School was an award winner in the year for conducting a program of dental health. U. S. P. A. officials reported that 100,000 people were treated by free dental clinics.

reduced quotas and summer drought contributed to one of the smallest burley crops in years.

### March

As March approached, there was good news from financially troubled Mars Hill College. President Fred Bentley announced that the settlement of the estate of Mrs. Minnie Huffman Reddish had left the college with a bequest of \$300,000. A News Record editorial supporting the college later gave rise to a Madison County campaign drive that raised more than \$200,000 for the school from local residents and businesses.

Plans for the construction of a Walnut bypass on U. S. 25-70 were unveiled at a February meeting at Marshall Elementary School. Also in February, officials of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Town Lift team presented Marshall residents with their recommendations for improving the downtown business area.

Our March 8 front page featured a doublet growing in the yard of Mrs. Ernest Peanmore. While dogs, the doublet was covered with snow as winter approached.

The Madison County commission approved plans for a new road from the town of Walnut to the town of Mars Hill.