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Marshall Police Chief Faces Larceny Charge

Wild Says Cox Won't Be Sworn In

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall's newly appointed police chief, Herschel F. Cox, was arrested by Asheville police on July 2, three days before his appointment by the Marshall Board of Aldermen. Cox, 27, of Weaverville was arrested and charged with felonious larceny.

Cox was scheduled for an appearance in Buncombe County District Court on Tuesday on the charge. In a telephone interview with The News Record Monday night, Cox said that he intends to plead not guilty to the charge. Cox is represented by Asheville attorney Jack Stuart.

The felony charge stems from Cox's former employment as a security guard at an Asheville hotel. The warrant served at the time of his arrest alleges that Cox stole \$568.50 from the hotel, the Great Smokies Hilton. The theft is alleged to have occurred on June 21, 1984.

Cox was appointed Marshall chief of police on July 5 at a special called meeting of the town board.

Cox's arrest has postponed his taking office and left Marshall without a chief for the two-member force.

Contacted after The News Record learned of the arrest, Mayor Betty Wild indicated that Cox would not be sworn in as chief because of the arrest. Although Cox has not been officially sworn in, he has ridden with Marshall police on patrol

duty.

During a telephone interview Monday night, Cox indicated that he has spoken with Wild. He said that he listed the name of the security agency with which he was employed on June 21 on his application to become the town's police chief.

Cox said that although Wild told him he will not be sworn in, he has "no idea" whether or not he has been fired.

Mayor Wild said it may not be necessary to officially dismiss Cox because he was never sworn into office. Town attorney Charles Mashburn is studying the matter. Mayor Wild declined to comment regarding Cox's application for employment.

The mayor defended the decision to hire Cox, saying that a check with state law officials in Raleigh failed to reveal the July 2 arrest. "We didn't act impulsively. We ran checks on him and they came back clean. We felt like we had done our job," she said.

At the July 5 meeting at which he was appointed, Cox was recommended by former Marshal police chief Faye Reid, who told the aldermen, "I've checked his credentials and he's beautiful."

Wild said that the town will begin looking for a new chief to replace Cox immediately.

We're Not Talking To Each Other

By ROBERT KOENIG

Folks in different parts of Madison County aren't talking to each other on the telephone and that will make it hard for the county to get extended area service (EAS) in the near future.

That was the word from Turner Rogers, vice president of Contel, the local telephone utility. Rogers explained extended area service at last week's meeting of the Community Development Association at the Senior Citizens Center in Marshall. The club has been studying the possibility of eliminating toll charges for intra-county calls by switching to the EAS system.

Rogers told the meeting that EAS would mean an increase in the basic monthly charge for service. Although he declined to say what that increase might be, Rogers said earlier studies of EAS showed that residential customers would have their monthly charges increased by \$4.30 for county-wide service.

In order to provide county-wide toll-free service, Rogers explained, Contel would have

to rewire the entire county at a cost in excess of \$700,000. The rate increase would be necessary to allow Contel to recover the costs of rewiring.

Rogers also said that it appears that there is not presently enough demand for the countywide service. He presented the results of a study of customers' bills for June of this year which seemed to back up his argument.

According to the figures Rogers presented, 44 percent of Marshall customers never call Mars Hill exchanges, while 94.7 percent of Mars Hill customers did not call Hot Springs. Almost half of all Mars Hill customers did not call Marshall exchanges during the month.

There's very little talk between Guntertown and Mars Hill these days, too. More than 91 percent of Mars Hill customers had no calls to Guntertown numbers in the month.

The busiest lines are between Marshall and Hot Springs and it appears that Hot Springs residents are doing most of the dialing.

Rogers said that intracoun-

ty calls have increased since the last study, but that the amount of use is still below the point where the state Utility Commission might order EAS installed.

The commission, Rogers said, studies the amount of telephone traffic between communities when determining if EAS is needed.

In order for the Utility Commission to approve EAS, Rogers said, there must be community interest in the service demonstrated by petitions and customer use. The commission would then order Contel to conduct a cost study and prepare ballots to poll customers to determine if EAS was wanted.

"We're not against EAS," Rogers said. "But it doesn't appear that a majority of the people would benefit. Contel is vitally interested in helping Madison County. We want to see industry in this county, too.

If the customers want EAS and they're willing to pay for it, they'll get it."

Rogers said that EAS service could be limited to Marshall and Mars Hill exchanges or to just Marshall and Hot

Springs exchanges instead of the entire county.

The Contel VP said the utility is proceeding with construction on Madison County lines to convert to new digital switching equipment. The digital equipment will enable Contel to offer new services to county customers including call forwarding, call waiting and conference calls.

Rogers added that the new equipment would lower operating costs.

Grover Angel of Mars Hill suggested holding a countywide meeting on the subject.

The community development committee will meet again to discuss county-wide toll-free service on the first Thursday in Sept.

It was also announced at the meeting that area judging in the N.C. Community Development Club Association beautification contest will be held on August 19.

Jerry Plemmons also announced that a meeting on weatherization for non-profit organizations will be held on June 19 at 7:30 p.m. Plemmons said that non-profit organizations may receive up to \$500 in assistance toward weatherizing club buildings or halls.

"Seasons" was written for the troupe by Mark Dearmon, state troupe coordinator and a media specialist in the agriculture communications department at North Carolina State University. According to Dearmon, the show is much more dramatic than the troupe's 1983 production.

"Last year's show was a celebration of the 75-year history of 4-H in North Carolina," Dearmon said. "Seasons' concerns many health issues that we face in today's society and the effects that they can have on an individual's life.

Despite the more serious theme, "Seasons" still contains 13 musical numbers ranging from popular tunes such as 'Beat It' and 'What A Feeling' to the classical 'Canon in D' by Pachelbel."

The performers, ages 13 through 19, are directed and supported by adult leaders behind stage.



CHRIS STINSON

County 4-H'er Named To State Troupe

By PAM CROWHURST

Madison County 4-H'er Chris Stinson has been selected to participate in the state 4-H performing arts troupe this week in Raleigh.

Chris, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Stinson of Marshall, was selected as one of the 28 performers taking part in this year's troupe. Stinson won a place in the troupe through auditions held this spring. In addition to the performers, 17 technicians make up the 4-H group.

The troupe's premier performance will be held tonight in Raleigh during the annual state 4-H Congress in the capital. More than 1,300 4-H'ers, adult leaders and 4-H supporters will attend the premier of "Seasons."

This fall, the company of young performers will stage four additional performances in other parts of the state.

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Rathbone Trial Sent On To Superior Court

Murder charges against Clyde Rathbone of Sleepy Valley will be heard in Madison County Superior Court, possibly during the September term of the court. Rathbone is charged with murdering his brother, Charles Rathbone, during a June 13 shootout at their father's home.

Rathbone's case was sent on to Superior Court by District Court Judge Leonard Van Noppen during Wednesday's session of court.

The court accepted a deferral agreement in cases involving Jeff Flynn, charged with assault and communicating threats.

The court heard traffic-related cases during the Thursday session of District Court.

Eldon Thomas Ogle, charged with driving under the influence, pleaded guilty to reckless driving. Ogle received a suspended six-month sentence and was fined \$125.

Tim Lynn Wilds pleaded guilty to a charge of indecent exposure. Wilds received a six-month sentence, suspended for two years and was fined \$65 and ordered to pay court costs.

Peter Anthony Doreo, III entered guilty pleas to speeding and a provisional license violation. Charges of driving while impaired were dismissed. Doreo received a six-month suspended sentence and was ordered to serve two years supervised probation. He was also fined \$100.

Charles Frank Wells pleaded guilty to driving while impaired and no operators license and received a suspended 60-day sentence, a \$100 fine and was ordered to surrender his license.

Charles Lee Davis pleaded guilty to consuming a malt beverage in the passenger area and littering and received a two-month suspended sentence and a \$25 fine.

The court also continued a number of driving while impaired cases. DWI charges against Jeffrey Martin Anderson, Kimberly Elizabeth Henderson, Kenneth Wayne King,

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Correction

In a story in last week's issue concerning the public meeting held on the division of the Laurel precinct, we incorrectly reported that Garland Adams spoke in opposition of the split. Donald Norton pointed out that Adams spoke in favor of the plan at the meeting.

The News Record regrets this error.

Appalachian Memories: Return To The Past



MR. AND MRS. OSCAR CLARK

By Lillie McDevitt Clark
Journey to the Past

In the early 1970's, I asked my husband to take me from our retirement home in the Beech community of northern Buncombe County, back to my old home place, Revere, in Madison County.

It was a beautiful fall day and the mountains had put on their dress of many colors, which added joy to our trip and brought back memories of my childhood days when Mother would take me with her every Wednesday higher into the mountains to sell the cattle.

Most families in those days left their cattle and hogs into the mountains in the spring and, although there were hundreds of animals, every one

had its family brand and you seldom heard of an ownership dispute.

I always looked forward to the Wednesday walks, for Mother knew all the names of the trees, shrubs, flowers, birds and herbs and she taught me at an early age to distinguish the poisonous snakes from the non-poisonous.

I loved the trails, for there would be plenty of flowers and little chestnut trees that seemed to belong to the chipmunks, which would scamper up trees and run under logs but they had a scold's voice that let you know you were not welcome.

There was something about those trails along the ridges, hollows and valleys that have always stood out in my mind.

They are few now, but when I see one, I always want to stroll along until I get to the end. People used these trails so much in the mountains to cut the distance between places, and we called them "nigh ways."

I was excited about going back to my old birthplace as we left Beech early in the morning, and drove down to Marshall. At Marshall, we turned on to a nice hard-surfaced road, up Walnut Creek. I had traveled over that road when it was a dirt road, and I don't know that I could call it more beautiful now. For me, nothing can take the place of nature as God planned it.

I kept looking for the little community called Summary, where one of our best high

schools stood. Boys and girls would walk for miles out of the hollows, coves, and mountains to get there. Others that lived too far would find a place in the community to stay.

In place of the big schoolhouse, we found a beautiful Baptist church.

Instead of cabins and batteau houses, there were brick, rock, and beautifully painted wood houses.

There was something about the old log houses that seemed so strong and homely, with plenty of life around, and the people who lived in them we called our staunch mountaineers—not afraid of hard work, but ashamed to accept charity.

That used to be the characteristic of the mountain people: charity only when

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