

## McDEVITT COMES BACK AT SUPERINTENDENT DILLARD AGAIN

### FACTS AND FIGURES

By N. B. McDEVITT

Subject—Can Marshall district run its schools and pay back interest and principal on the last and larger amounts that said district has had the sole benefit of?

It appears that this issue was answered in the affirmative in last week's issue of the News-Record, but it's doubtful if Madison County taxpayers will be satisfied with "Yes"—and will, after referring to some of N. B. McDevitt's actions, take up Marshall district.

I note flaming headlines in the paper, not in the editorials, that the County Commissioners endorse school and it's my information and first hand, from most of the Board, that they do endorse building if the district can pay for same and their other obligations and the general county not have to pay it. It's stated that the lengthy article in last week's news was in justice to the Commissioners, for the benefit of the public they need no defense from anything I have said or see cause to say at this time. I commend the Commissioners for refusing to make an application to the State Loan Fund for \$175,000.00, practically all of which the County in general would have to pay back.

I am advised that the County Commissioners signed the application for the \$65,000.00 to aid in building Marshall a school house solely on the advice of their attorney—if this is not correct the County Commissioners can speak up.

It appears that the County Commissioners are praised in the article above referred to and then are criticized for not obeying orders. Let's see about all this. In Jan., the application for the \$65,000.00 was made for Marshall. They say that it was represented to them that it was purely a district affair and said district could repay its obligations. On or about March 8th, 1926, McDevitt heard about the application and asked certain members of the Commissioners the following question: "When your Board signed an application to the State Loan Fund for \$65,000.00 did you understand that the district was able to pay this money and interest and its other obligations back and run its schools, or did you sign it with the intention of levying a tax on all of Madison County to take care of it?" It was advised that it was purely a district matter whereupon I said that these loans could not be had for a district without the endorsement of the county by its Commissioners and if the district could not pay it the County had to do so. On the 23rd of March, 1926, a young man came to my place and advised that a member of the Board of Commissioners said for me to come to the Commissioners' room. I went and met the man and asked why I was wanted and was told, I said: "Wait until I go back and get my figures" and when I had done so, I went into the Commissioners' office and gave them such facts as I had and I found three members of said board in session on the 23rd of March. I am advised that they addressed a letter to the State Supt. asking that the \$65,000.00 loan be cancelled and stated that they were in session. I have said the Commissioners were in session and they have said they were in session on the 23rd. Later the news got out that the leader of the school system had gone to Raleigh and on the 1st day of April, 1926, Frank Nash, assistant Attorney General, wrote the State Supt. and used these words: "A majority of the Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, on March 23rd, without formal meeting, attempted to rescind its action in applying for said loan of \$65,000.00. This was done by taking a paper from one member of the board to another and securing the signatures of three members of the Board." It has been said that N. B. McDevitt sneaked before the Board, when, in fact, he went upon invitation. It would appear that some one went to Raleigh and represented that the County Commissioners had also made a false statement.

On the 23rd of March while the board of Commissioners were in session—a stormy demonstration was put on by the head of the school system and a highly respected citizen, S. W. McClure, was insulted, etc., and while N. B. McDevitt was before said Board he was forced to take numerous insults from the head of the school system. It's admitted that N. B. McDevitt ran at last primary for a member of the Board of Education and was elected and confirmed by the Legislature and up to this time has not been put off of said board, but it's contended that the Board was so maneuvered that N. B. McDevitt's service on said Board was absolutely worthless as a cancelled postage stamp and has been since the new Board organized as he and Mr. Frisby are all the members on said board that were elected and that the other two defeated candidates and Mr. Chandler makes a majority and McDevitt was ignored when Committees were to be appointed soon after the new board took office, in that the various members suggested who go on in their localities and that Marshall district was jumped on, it being McDevitt's home and G. L. McKinney and Wm. V. Farmer, whose terms had not expired, were both laid off the committee and other members were put on and that in E. N. Holcombe's place another man was put on. G. L. McKinney was at that time Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, that had signed the application for the \$65,000.00 loaned that the Supt. says in last week's paper that he saw in Raleigh an old application signed by N. B. McDevitt for said loan. That is right, Brother, but I promised that Board of County Commissioners that the money would not be used until such times as the district could repay same, and asked the board of Education to confirm my promise and they did so. We went squarely to the County Commissioners and told them that we could not pay it and we stuck to it. Whether or not Mr. McKinney has changed his mind since he resigned from the Board of Commissioners I can't say, but I can say that he was crazy for a house and so was I, Mr. Supt., and you admit that I got the funds. I must have been a little bit interested at that time, but the Board was just emerging from financial embarrassment, wherein McDevitt was invited to a seat on said Board and accepted when lots of his friends said he was crazy for sticking his head into the halter. Pardon me,

but I must mention Messrs. Farmer, Holcombe and McKinney, P. V. Rector and Morgan Ramsey, that the High School under their management as committeemen took a very high rating as can be seen in report made by State Department of Education. Last year it was fought to a finish about where the school was to be located and the Board insisted that they had nothing to build with, as no means of repaying was in sight, but now it's made to appear that N. B. McDevitt has selected a building site, when the fact is McDevitt and Roberts at no time ever decided on a building site, since no funds were available for use. When the election of a County Supt. came off last time I was present. Frank Jarvis, a native of Madison County and a prominent teacher of experience and holding a college degree from a reputable college was (Carried to fourth page)

## MR. J. C. PICKENS, FORMERLY OF JUPITER, NOW OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME IN CALIFORNIA, WRITES THE NEWS-RECORD

The following letter from Mr. Pickens explains itself:

SOLDIERS' HOME, California.

March 30, 1926.

Mr. H. L. Story,  
Editor THE NEWS-RECORD,  
Marshall, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Recently an old war comrade and school-mate of mine (Shepard Deaver) sent me a pamphlet, the author of which was Comrade M. A. Chandley.

At the same time Comrade Deaver suggested that I write some of my personal recollections of same period and something of the service of our regiment. The Second North Carolina Mounted Infantry (Union) and others.

Marshall is almost my native town as it was the nearest town to my home though in Buncombe County, just across the Madison County line.

In the early days I had a sister and some nephews and nieces living in Marshall and visited them there very frequently. Some of these live there now.

Therefore, if you think the inclosed "reminiscences" would be of sufficient interest to your readers to justify your doing so, you may print the same in your columns.

You will, in case you accept the article, edit the same and omit of expunge any part that you regard as probably offensive to any of your readers or otherwise irrelevant or immaterial.

You will probably make a continual story of it—if accepted at all. I can later write an article for you, giving my experiences in the Indian warfare on the Plains in the '70s under Custer in the Seventh U. S. Cavalry, Fighting the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches. Also something of Buffalo hunting and other items of interest in those days.

In this, the inclosed article, I have omitted many of the minor incidents of our military career, to save space and avoid verbosity.

I am pleased to know that Marshall has a newspaper of its very own. THE RURAL COMMUNICATIONS ARE SIMPLY DELICIOUS.

I meet many of the natives of W. N. C. here at our annual State picnics, such names as McLean, Plemmons, Vance, Monday, Pickens, Munson, Brittain, Roberts, McElroy, Peck, Howe, and others.

Yours, very respectfully,  
J. C. PICKENS.

(Formerly of Jupiter)

### REMINISCENCES

Pertaining chiefly to The Second North Carolina Mtd. Infantry, and incidents and anecdotes of the members while serving the Union cause in the Sixties.

Toward the beginning of the end of that memorable contest, all the various organizations of union troops accredited to that state, were merged into three regiments, namely: The First, The Second, and The Third Mounted Infantry. Each composed of white soldiers. If these loyal regiments were ever recognized and enrolled on the military records of the state that they helped restore to the honorable position, it is now so proud to occupy, I am ignorant of the fact. Be that as it may, we are fully recognized at the capital of the great country we helped to sustain in its pristine grandeur.

The Second North Carolina Mtd. Infantry was organized at Knoxville, Tenn., in September, 1863 and served until the close of hostilities. Our first Lieut.-Col. was originally

a lawyer from Connorsville, Ind., and later Captain in the Fifth Indiana Cavalry, named J. Albert Smith.

After his resignation in 1864, our next and last Lieut.-Col. was a regular army man Lieutenant from The Third U. S. Artillery and a graduate of West Point; named William Chambers Bartlett.

It seems that our regiment was not a full regt. and not entitled to a full colonelcy.

Our first military excursion after organization, was a "joy ride" from Knoxville to Greenville via a freight train and when it seemed inclined to ignore the speed laws we would get off and try to hold it down to proper limits, when going up-grade.

At Greenville we were disembarked and headed south toward our native Dixie and visions of buckwheat cakes and sorghum cheered us onward.

We later found that our destination was a noted health resort known as "The Warm Springs" just over the state line in N. C.

The object of our being sent there was, of course, to benefit our health as we might be subject to buck ague. (Carried to Sixth Page)

## MRS. FARIDA PLEMMONS FOUND ALIVE NEAR HOT SPRINGS

SEEN BY MEN AS SHE WAS LEAVING STOCK BARN

This morning early some men saw a woman leaving a stock barn on the farm of Mr. W. E. Ellerson. The men approached and found it to be Mrs. Farida Plemmons who so mysteriously disappeared two weeks ago.

She protested that her name was not Plemmons. The men finally overpowered her and took her home. Dr. Sams of Marshall was called and pronounced it a case of amnesia. After having first aid treatment, the woman collapsed and finally came to herself and begged to see her husband and children. Her children were at her mother's home. She and her husband are now at the home of Mr. Crit Stamey.

The finding of this woman this morning has solved one of the most baffling mysteries that has confronted the people of this section of the State. Every means of searching has been used, the river dragged and dynamited, and at times as many as 50 people searched the mountains for her.

### NOTICE!

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

DEAR FRIENDS:—

For the past three weeks I have been kept at home suffering with a severe burn. No doubt friends who have kept my office open have served you kindly. I hope to be right at my post of duty soon. When you are in town call. I shall be glad to serve you. Please remember me at Friday in June and vote for me. Respectfully,  
MRS. ANNIE MAY WHITE.

## DEMOCRATS TO MEET

The Democratic Township Chairmen of Madison County are requested to call meetings Saturday, the 17th, at 1 P. M. and elect township chairmen and send delegates to the County Convention in Marshall at 1 P. M. the 24th, to elect delegates to the State Convention and elect a County Chairman.

N. B. McDEVITT,  
Co. Ch'm. Dem. Ex. Committee  
Madison County.

### From BIG PINE

We have been having some fine weather. The people of this section are very busy fixing for planting corn. We had a nice Sunday School Sunday. A large crowd and a lot of visitors. Mr. G. W. Wild has been sick for some time. We hope he will soon be

with us in Sunday School again. Mr. U. K. Wild spent Sunday afternoon carrying in his grass seed, which we think it would have better to wait until Monday to do.

Mr. Erasmus Plemmons was absent from Sunday school Sunday. We missed him very much.

Mr. Garfield Roberts has his mother-in-law staying with them while he is hunting. We wish him much success.

Mrs. John Roberts is selling out to go to Detroit, Mich., to make her home.

Miss Lovie Baker and little daughter are going to Detroit, Mich., for a job.

Mr. Roosevelt Roberts has sold his pig and will go to Detroit Monday.

Mr. T. J. Wild has been very busy getting out acid wood. He borrowed Mr. Jeter Baker's wedge and lost it. He has been worrying very much about it. If anyone finds it and will return it to him it will be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Aliver Roberts who has been sick for some time is improving slowly. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

Best wishes to the News-Record and all its readers.

## From BONNIE HILL SCHOOL

Through the courtesy of Miss Haws, our school was the guest of the Hot Springs school on Friday morning. Truck No. 15 carried us to and from the school and Shutin creek. An interesting program of songs, recitations, and the dramatization of "Ghosts in the Eye Field" was well rendered by our hosts. We then visited several class rooms to observe the excellent work being done there. Some of us now feel that we would like to attend that fine school.

At the Sunday school service it was voted to hold a box supper on Saturday night, April 23, at the school house to secure funds for several important school projects.

The Traveling Library secured from Raleigh was placed in circulation on Sunday. At the same service, Mr. Vance Blankenship was elected Superintendent while three classes—Adult, Intermediate, and Junior—completed the organization.

The Senior Class of Marshall High School will give: "AND HOME CAME TED" at

The Pastime Theatre,  
Friday, April 23rd, at  
8:00 P. M. Admission  
—25 and 35 cents.

## FOR SHERIFF TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Madison County, subject to the Republican primary to be held June 5th, 1926. If nominated and elected I will endeavor, by the help and cooperation of the good people of the county, to enforce the laws and execute the duties of this office in a fair and impartial manner. Thanking you for your support in the past and asking for your vote and influence in the coming Primary.

WILLARD C. RECTOR

## FOR TAX COLLECTOR TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Tax Collector, subject to the action of the Republican Primary of June 5, 1926.

GROVER C. REDMON

## To the Voters of Madison County and the Candidates for Tax Collector:

### PROPOSAL

As a Candidate for the office of Tax Collector, I suggest to my opponents let the high man or lady be the Nominee. This saves the County the extra expense of holding a second primary. Are you both willing?

Your friend,  
GROVER C. REDMON