



# THE NEWS-RECORD



VOL. 54 NO. 20

16 PAGES

MARSHALL, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1955

PRICE: \$2.50 A YEAR

## \$19,500 Bank Robbery Staged In Hot Springs Wednesday

### French Broad Road Report Is Completed By Officials

Howerton's Report To Be In Hands Of Commission This Week-End

A decision by State Highway Commission officials on North Carolina routing of an interstate highway between Knoxville, Tenn. and Asheville may be announced soon.

One delay to the announcement ended yesterday with completion of a report on the feasibility of building the superhighway down the French Broad River.

The report was compiled by T. M. Howerton, Asheville engineer.

An earlier report, already in the hands of the SHC, proposes the road be routed along the Pigeon River in Haywood County.

A majority of the SHC has favored the Pigeon River route.

But Chairman A. H. Graham of the SHC, at a public hearing in Asheville April 18 on the two routes, agreed to delay a final decision until Howerton's report could be completed.

Howerton said Tuesday his report would be in Raleigh for Graham's consideration by the end of the week.

Tentatively Approved

The Pigeon River route has already been "tentatively confirmed" by the SHC, Graham said following the April 18 hearing.

The commission voted to delay its decision on the route at the conclusion of a nearly day-long public hearing in City Auditorium in Asheville.

Graham said at the time the commission staved off a decision only long enough to receive Howerton's report.

One of the state's top technical highway experts has recommended the Pigeon River route — Chief Locating Engineer R. Getty Browning.

State Highway Engineer W. H. Rogers estimates the French Broad route would cost between \$21,000,000 and \$26,000,000 with 40.6 miles of new road to build. He estimates the Pigeon route of 24.1 miles of new road as costing \$15,000,000 with 6.8 miles already graded at a cost of \$2,000,000.

### Shelton Fined \$300 For Setting Fires

Zeb Whitt Shelton was fined \$300.00, given an 18-months suspended sentence and placed on probation for two years, in U. S. District Court in Asheville Monday.

Shelton was charged with allegedly setting unattended fires on government property.

### Piano Recital To Be Given Tonight At Methodist Church

Pupils of Mrs. Robert N. Barefoot will present a piano recital at the Methodist Church here tonight (Thursday) at eight o'clock.

Mrs. Fred W. Pulp, of Greensboro, sister of the Rev. R. N. Barefoot, will be guest vocalist and will sing several selections during the recital.

Pupils participating are from Walnut and Marshall. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### Weekly Legislative Summary

NOTE: This is the eighteenth of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government in the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1955. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Without question the General Assembly is driving toward adjournment. The House began on Monday with two sessions a day, and kept up the pace for the entire week. The (Continued on page seven)

### FREEZE SCHOOL TO BE HELD HERE NEXT THURSDAY

Miss Nita Orr Is To Head "Freeze To Save" Event At REA Building Here

Mrs. Janie Ramsey, home demonstration agent, announced this week that Freezing School would be held at the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Building here on Thursday afternoon, May 26. The meeting will begin at 1:30 o'clock and will continue until about three o'clock. This is the first Freezing School ever held in the county and is expected to be well attended.

Miss Nita Orr, specialist from the Extension service of Raleigh will be in charge of the meeting. Various problems and solutions will be discussed and a demonstration on the deep-freezing of vegetables, etc., will be given. Various defrosting methods will be presented and many other interesting phases of freezing will be discussed.

The topic of the school will be "Freeze To Save" and the public is cordially urged to attend.

All home demonstration clubs in the county are cooperating with the school and an interesting event is anticipated.

### Burning Permits Can Now Be Secured; Ban Is Lifted

According to J. Moody Chandler, County Forest Protector, burning permits will now be issued after being cancelled for the past week due to dry weather.

Mr. Chandler stated that sufficient rain fell during the past week to permit burning to be safely resumed.

Mr. Chandler warns that extreme caution should still be used when burning.

### Mars Hill Wins Tie For Skyline-A Lead

Mars Hill's Wildcats capitalized on 10 hits and seven Marshall errors at Mars Hill Wednesday afternoon to dump the Tornadoes, 15-8, and gain a first-place tie in the Skyline-A Conference.

Charles Boone, who went the route for Mars Hill, scattered nine hits effectively among the losers. The Wildcats thumped two Marshall hurlers for 10 safeties.

Boone led the Mars Hill hitting with three for five. Milam Wall added two for four. R. J. Edwards had three for four for Marshall.

The two teams are in a deadlock for the league lead with 4-2 records. They meet this (Thursday) afternoon at 1:30 on the Mars Hill field to decide the championship.

Marshall 010 500 2-8 9 7

Mars Hill 543 111 x-15 10 3

### Dr. Hoyt Blackwell To Deliver Baccalaureate Sermon At Old Fort

Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president of Mars Hill College, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to a class of 43 Old Fort High School seniors in the school auditorium May 22 at 8 p. m.

### OES Not To Meet Here Monday Night

It has been announced by Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Spink, worthy patron, that there will be no Eastern Star meeting in the Masonic Temple Monday evening, May 19, due to the remodeling now in progress.

### MARSHALL SCHOOL BOND ISSUE OKAYED

Marshall School District voters Saturday approved by an overwhelming majority a \$50,000 bond issue for a new gymnasium and vocational building.

The count was 345 in favor and 20 against.

County Schools Superintendent W. W. Peek said after the tabulation was completed it was hoped construction of the two-story building near the two existing Marshall School structures would be started next month.

He said the work was expected to be advanced enough to permit use of at least part of the new building at the start of the next school term.

Already available for the job in addition to the money which will be supplied by the bond issue is \$25,000 in capital outlay funds allocated by the board of Madison County commissioners.

Today's election was rescheduled after the voting of last March was invalidated because of a technicality in the election form.

Voters in the original election approved the bond issue by a three-to-one majority.

The new building will have Marshall its first school house the vocational home economics department free space in the existing building to alleviate overcrowding.

### WALNUT ALUMNI BANQUET TO BE HELD SATURDAY

The eighth annual meeting of the Walnut High School Alumni Association will be held Saturday night, May 21 at 7 o'clock at the school.

A special program honoring Mrs. Epps McClure, founder of the organization, will be given.

Mr. William W. Peek, superintendent of Madison County Schools, will be the principal speaker.

All former graduates, teachers, and principals are cordially invited to attend.

### 'Slow Down and Live' Campaign To Start On Friday, May 27

Raleigh — Governor Luther H. Hodges has joined with the governors of 47 other states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to declare Memorial Day to Labor Day, 1955, as the period for a "Slow Down and Live" highway safety campaign. The objectives of this nationwide program is to reduce death, injury and property damage on the streets and highways of the nation during the peak period of summer motor travel.

The "Slow Down and Live" program, sponsored by the National Conference of State Safety Coordinators, was introduced in the northeast in 1953, and in 1954, operating in 24 states from Maine to Texas, provided the first "across the board" reduction in traffic casualties reported by any group of states since World War II. A total of 601 lives were saved in the 24-state area and noteworthy decreases were effected in personal injury and property damage accidents.

Edward Scheidt, State Safety Coordinator for North Carolina, points out that "9,511 persons were killed on the highways of the nation between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 1954. With the prediction that 50 million Americans will travel to vacation destinations by motor vehicle this year, we are faced with a tremendous challenge to reduce the death and injury toll by summer travel."

The 1954 traffic fatality toll for North Carolina covering the period from 6:00 p. m., Friday, May 28 to midnight, September 2 totaled 265 according to Motor Vehicle Department records. "We are determined to improve that record with the 1955 campaign," said Mr. Scheidt in announcing completion of the plan for North Carolina's participation in the program.

### "BIG AS LIFE" TO BE GIVEN HERE ON FRIDAY

"Big As Life," a light-hearted comedy, will be given in the Marshall High School Auditorium, Friday night, May 20, at eight o'clock.

Eddie Hopkins and his family are funny enough to be a hit with any audience. His father, an absent-minded professor, is forever getting himself involved in hilarious problems while pursuing the study of white rats. His mother's interests in the new neighbors are as amusing as his sister, Elaine's efforts to sing with a voice more suited to singing in the bathtub. Eddie himself is inclined toward a fondness for loud clothes, fox tails on his car, and other idiosyncrasies common to a young "man about school." His triumphant arrival home after being elected class president, impresses his family. Barbara and Flossie, two classmates, are not quite so impressed.

Barbara in particular, feels Eddie's had so much success in school it is going to his head. She and Eddie have been going steady and Barbara wishes something would happen to bring Eddie back to normal. She appeals to Professor Hopkins, but he is not interested in anything bigger than a white rat. Then, suddenly, Eddie DOES change!

Nothing becomes austere as he begins to read books and poetry. His family is as surprised as Barbara — until the reason for the change becomes apparent. The new neighbors have a beautiful twenty-year-old daughter named Eudora. (Continued on Page Five) (First Section)

### BACCALAUREATE SERVICE AT 2:30 SUN. AT MARSHALL

The Baccalaureate Service will be held at Marshall High School Sunday, May 22 at 2:30 p. m.

The service will be delivered by Dr. A. Ellison Jenkins, member of the Mars Hill College faculty.

The service was originally scheduled for 11:00 a. m.

### Widespread Search Continues For Two Men; No One Injured

LOCKED IN VAULT



JOE Q. TILSON, manager of the Hot Springs bank, was temporarily locked in the vault along with a customer, Bob Davis, as the robbers escaped with \$19,500. B. Y. Owensby, who came in the bank soon after the robbers escaped, unlocked the vault after Tilson shouted the combination to him through the heavy steel door.

### Navy Enlistments Open To High School Graduates

U. S. Navy offers greater opportunities to high school graduates. The programs thrown open to the high school graduates cover the fields of electronics, hospital and dental corps, aviation, and specialized schools for general service.

All candidates who attain a minimum score on the Navy's enlistment examination and present their high school diplomas, will be a part of an opportunity to attend one of fifty-three basic vocational trade schools, also good physical condition and moral character are required for enlistment.

Men interested in the aviation branch may now be enlisted as an aviator recruit and will be assigned to a naval aviation unit upon completion of recruit training.

For more information on these greater opportunities in the U. S. Navy, see your Navy Recruiter today.

A Navy recruiter will be at the Post Office Building in Marshall every Wednesday from 9:30 A. M. to 4 P. M.

### NEW DELAY DISCLOSED IN VACCINE RELEASE

Washington, May 18 — A new delay in further releases of Salk polio vaccine was disclosed tonight pending what a Public Health spokesman called "another look-see at this whole very-confused picture."

The disclosure came when a reporter asked why there had been no report on the findings of a federal inspection team which has completed a visit to Wyeth Laboratories, Inc., at Marietta, Pa.

"There will be no further releases of vaccine from any manufacturer for several days," a spokesman said. He added the situation did not affect the 7,850,000 cubic centimeters of vaccine produced by two other laboratories and approved for use in the nationwide immunization program. Much of this has already been used and what is left is still approved for use.

A detachment of Marines under Colonel Robert E. Lee, U. S. Army, landed at Hot Springs, N. C., on May 19, 1955.

Manager Joe Tilson And Bob Davis Locked In Vault; Soon Released

Widespread search is continuing for the two unidentified men who held up the Hot Springs branch of the Citizens Bank of Marshall at Hot Springs Wednesday morning at 9:35 and sped away unnoticed in a flashy car with \$19,500.

Dozens of law enforcement officers, including the FBI, sheriff's department and the State Highway Patrol are participating.

Road Block Abandoned

Road blocks were set up Wednesday in a fan shape in Madison, Yancey, Haywood, Buncombe and as far away as Polk County at the South Carolina line by members of the State Highway Patrol. This was abandoned, however, several hours later to allow officers to concentrate on other phases of the search.

Capt. D. G. Lewis, commanding officer of the patrol's Troop "E," said that at least a half dozen patrolmen, under Lt. H. C. Johnson were searching the area as far as the Tennessee line for clues in connection with the robbery.

Hot Springs Police Roy Johnson reported today no new developments in the investigation.

There was at least one indication that the holdup men "cased" the bank and town prior to the robbery. They picked a day in which Patrolman P. J. Bagwell, of Marshall, was off duty. The officer patrols the Hot Springs section and it was his regular day off, although he joined fellow officers in the search.

The first patrolman to reach the scene of the crime was A. V. Harrison of Asheville, who was in the vicinity investigating an accident.

About 9:30 A. M.

The bandits — one tall and one short — walked into the bank around 9:35 a. m. and herded Manager Joe Q. Tilson and a customer into a walk-in vault.

They scooped up some \$5,000 in cash from the teller's drawer, then forced Tilson to open the safe inside the vault where they stole another \$14,500.

Still wielding pistols, they locked Tilson and the customer, Bob Davis, inside the vault. They apparently fled without being noticed in a 1951 red and black Oldsmobile hardtop sedan.

Minutes later B. Y. Owensby heard Tilson and Davis pounding on the vault door when he came to the bank to make a deposit.

Owensby first called Sheriff E. Y. Ponder and then with Tilson shouting the vault combination to him, unlocked the door and freed Tilson and Davis.

The Oldsmobile was found rammed into a thicket just off the Asheville-Hot Springs Highway, about a mile and a half from the scene of the robbery.

Tilson was the only employee in the bank and had opened for business. (Continued on Page Eight) (First Section)

### MINISTER FROM CHARLOTTE NEW PRESIDENT S.B.C.

Miami, Fla., May 18 — More than 10,000 ministry students are now enrolled in Baptist seminaries and colleges but leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention began moves to prepare for higher enrollments.

Presidents of the five seminaries sponsored by the church group reported that "more seminaries will be needed if these anticipated enrollment materials."

The convention, which began days of meetings in Miami, pointed a committee to study the possibility of establishing new seminaries. (Continued on Page Eight)