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PICTURED above are the county officials who took office here on Monday. Center front, Sheriff E. Y. Ponder; left to right, Emery Metcalf, auditor; Bob Davis, coroner; Ervin Adams, commissioner; Harold Wallin, tax collector; W. T. Moore, commissioner (directly behind Sheriff Ponder); Dr. R. Bruce Sams, chairman, commissioners; and Judson Edwards, clerk superior court. Judge W. K. McLean, who administered the oaths, is shown in back.



A PORTION of the crowd which filled the courtroom for the swearing in ceremony Monday.

Officials Take Oaths And Offices Monday

Superior Court Judge W. K. McLean, of Asheville, administered oaths to the newly-elected Madison County officials in the courtroom here Monday prior to their taking office. The courtroom was filled for the occasion.

Judge McLean asked Sheriff E. Y. Ponder to call the session to order and following this he administered the oath to Sheriff Ponder. Each elected candidate was then called to the bench separately where they took the oath of their particular office.

These included Emery Metcalf, auditor; Harold Wallin, tax collector; Judson Edwards, clerk superior court; Dr. Bruce Sams, W. T. Moore and Ervin Adams, commissioners; and Robert Davis, coroner.

Also taking oaths were Richard Freeman and Evin Payne, District Magistrates; and Mrs. Erma Sprinkle, deputy clerk of court and Mrs. Hattie Eller Nix, assistant deputy clerk of court.

When District Court Judge J. Ray Braswell, of Newland, entered the courtroom to attend the swearing in ceremony, Judge McLean invited him to sit on the bench

with him during the "session". Judge Braswell accepted the invitation.

McLEAN PRAISES COUNTY

Following the official ceremonies, Judge McLean said he would like to reminisce for a few minutes. He told the packed courtroom that he was a native of Madison County and had many kind memories about his experiences here. "I came to Marshall to practice law in 1933. I was later elected your solicitor and can vividly recall my first murder case in this courtroom", McLean said. He spoke of former attorneys and judges, mentioning such men as Guy V. Roberts, J. Coleman Ramsey, John McElroy, Carl Stuart, Calvin Edney, George Pritchard, and others.

McLean praised the county and its fine people and emphasized the stability of the people. He spoke of conditions elsewhere and stated that we were most fortunate in our county to be able to live peacefully and sanely without the dangers of rioting, bloodshed, arson, violence and demonstrations. He stated the importance of law and order and ended his remarks by

stating that he regarded the citizenry of Madison County as among the best in the nation.

Before ending his remarks he cautioned the two District Magistrates of their responsibilities and duties as such and said their responsibilities were actually more important than those of the judges of District or Superior courts.

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New Personnel In Courthouse

When the new county officials assumed office here Monday the personnel changed also. In order that public may know who is in the various offices helping the actual officials, the following is published:

Auditor's Office: Charles Huey, Mrs. John F. (Pat) Kent.

Surplus Foods personnel: Mrs. Betty Hunter, Howard Ogle.

Tax Collector's Office: Mrs. James (Wilma) Hylton.

Clerk of Court's Office: Mrs. Irma Sprinkle, Mrs. Hattie E. Nix.

Mrs. James (Christine) Lister remains in the Register of Deeds Office.

Cantata Here Sunday Night

The adult choir of the Marshall Baptist Church, assisted by several Mars Hill College students, will present "Love Transcending," a Christmas cantata by John W. Peterson, at the church on Sunday evening, Dec. 13, beginning at 7 o'clock.

Soloists are Miss Suzanne McGuirt, soprano; Miss Jennifer Blythe, alto; Terry Chenoweth, tenor; Hugh O'Shields, baritone; and Mike Holt, bass, college students; and Charles Huey of Marshall, baritone.

Ken Byerly, minister of music, will direct the cantata. Accompanist is Miss Janice Nash and the Rev. John Reid is narrator.

Following the cantata a reception will be held in the fellowship hall of the church. The public is invited.

Singing

The regular 2nd Sunday night singing will be held this Sunday night at the Alexander Baptist Church beginning at 7 o'clock.

Dennis is in charge of singing and the Rev. Joe Honeycutt is pastor. All listeners and singers are invited.

Christmas Pageant On Dec. 19, 21, 22

For the eighth consecutive year, the famed Marshall Christmas Pageant will be presented this year on Saturday night, Dec. 19; Monday and Tuesday nights, Dec. 21-22 in front of the courthouse beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

Dean Shields, coordinator, announces that Joseph will again be portrayed by Stanley Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleophus Ward; and Mary will

be portrayed by Carol Shelton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vader Shelton. Other members of the cast will be announced next week.

Roy Wild will again be in charge of lighting; Alton Payne in charge of livestock and Aaron Sronce, of Bone Camp, is furnishing the sheep.

More details will be published next week.

Library Board Signs Contract To Join Regional System

Public libraries in seven Western North Carolina counties are considering joining forces to organize a regional system that would aid them in broadening and upgrading library service to residents of their respective counties and the area as a whole.

It would be called Pisgah Regional Library after Pisgah National Forest which borders or is a part of six of the seven counties.

The counties where public library boards of trustees are considering participation are Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain and Transylvania. They have a combined population of 155,000 people, based on the preliminary 1970 census figures.

Headquarters for the regional library would be located in Haywood County. Regionalization would give their patrons access to almost 160,000 volumes at the outset. Presently, no single library in the seven counties offers its patrons more than 40,000 volumes.

Regionalization has long been encouraged by state libraries, including the N. C. State Library, as the most economical means of expanding the scope and improving the quality of library service. Formation of regional library systems has been the most significant trend in library service across America in recent years.

Fifteen regional library systems, involving about half of the state's 100 counties, have already been organized in North Carolina, and several others are under consideration. If all counties where regionalization is being considered elect to participate, Pisgah Regional Library would be the largest in the state in terms of the number of counties.

If all seven do participate, Pisgah Regional Library would qualify for a minimum of \$127,000 per year in state and federal grants for personnel and operating expenses. None of the counties, acting individually, can qualify for a regional grant, because they are too small.

Plans are to finance the regional library entirely from state and federal grants. No centralized depository is envisioned, since materials will be distributed to the counties according to the need and demand for them.

Formation of Pisgah Regional Library has been under consideration since early summer. A committee composed of librarians and trustees representing public libraries in all seven counties have been exploring regionalization in detail since

BULLETIN

W. B. Zink, chairman of the Madison County Library Board of Trustees, announced this week that the local board has signed a contract for this county to join the regional system.

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September 1. Representatives on the study panel are now reporting the committee's findings to their local library boards of trustees.

To join the regional system, the local library board must recommend participation to its county board of commissioners, which has legal authority to contract for participation.

The regional library would be governed by a board of trustees appointed by the board of commissioners in participating counties. The number of representatives from each county on the regional board would be

Turn To Page 2--

Reeves Named Attorney For This County

The Madison County board of commissioners Monday named William C. Reeves, well-known attorney and former teacher, as county attorney for Madison County. Reeves succeeds J. M. Baley, Jr., of Asheville. He started his duties here Monday.

A native of Weaverville, Reeves is a graduate of the University of Alabama (1932) and Asheville University Law School. He was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1934.

Below is a brief summary of his accomplishments:

Taught in Swain and Catawba public schools (1936-1940); Deputy clerk superior court, Buncombe County, (1940-54); U. S. Army (1942-46); practiced law in Marshall (1955-58 in firm of Leake & Reeves); taught in Marshall high school (1958-62); Mars Hill (1963-64); Chairman Buncombe County board of elections (1966-68); attorney for Madison County board of elections, (1968 and present); attorney for Madison County board of education, (1969 and present); director Bank of French Broad (1960-70); director Carolina Federal Savings & Loan, (1960 and present).

Mr. Reeves, a Methodist, is married to the former Clara W. Hunt. Mr. and Mrs. Reeves reside in Weaverville.