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Commissioners Set County Tax Rate At \$1.90; Budget Explained

At the Madison County Board of Commissioners regular July meeting Tuesday, the property tax rate for the 1971-72 tax year was set at \$1.90 per \$100 of property.

A study of the proposed budget shows the grand total to be \$2,336,343 of which the county must raise \$639,425. The remainder amounting to almost \$1,700,000 is paid by State and

Federal agencies.

A spokesman for the commissioners called attention to the fact that while \$480,662 will be raised by the \$1.90 rate, that experience shows the fact that 15 per cent of the property tax is uncollectible so that the amount received by the county is estimated to be \$408,563.

The amount of taxable property on the books at the new 45 per cent of assessed value is \$21,647,971 on the Township Books, \$2,692,125 Excess Valuation, which is set by the state on utilities operating in the county, and \$967,908 on the French Broad Electric Membership Corp. making a total of taxable property of \$25,298,004.

In breaking down the budget, the spokesman stated that increases in the budget which are set by state requirements are beyond the control of the commissioners, giving as examples: the 5c per \$100 valuation for the Industrial Promotion Commission amounting to \$12,650; the placing of a regular Election Registration Office and Store required equipment which resulted in an increase in election expenses of more than \$6,000.

Further increases came in the Forest Service which is up \$3,000; the newly added Dog Warden Fund of \$3,500 and an increase in Ambulance Service of \$6,000.

It was pointed out that while the Social Services, such as Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Partially and Totally Dependent and Medicaid, required \$102,200 of tax appropriations that the state and federal government contributed \$1,392,500 to this county.

The fact that the extra 1 per cent sales tax will produce an estimated \$60,000 was offset by the fact that under the system existing before the Supreme Court struck out the tax previously voted as it was budgeted at \$102,000.

All of the commissioners emphasized the fact that they ran on the platform pledging 75 per cent of the 1c Sales Tax Revenues toward the retirement of the bonds overwhelmingly by the people of the county for the new county high school. At that time this would have resulted in \$75,000 per year being made available for the bond fund but now the best that can be expected would be considerably less. The commissioners set aside in the new budget \$35,000 for the bond fund. It was explained that the sale of \$450,000 in bonds is set for early August. The remaining \$500,000

will be sold in 1972 when the building will be near completion.

The entire Board of Commissioners has worked at great length to keep the budget as low as possible, but all commented

on the fact that the rising cost of materials and services make it impossible to furnish the services demanded by the citizens of the county without increasing the total amount of the budget. County Accountant Emery

Metcalfe and his staff are working to complete the budget as soon as it is ready it will be available to the public. An announcement as to the date is expected in the very near future.



TOP PHOTO shows a few of the animals which participated in the Rodeo held on the Island here Monday afternoon and night. The event, sponsored by the Marshall Fire Department, was the most successful rodeo ever held here with an overflow crowd attending Monday night's performance. Bottom photo shows a portion of the crowd at the afternoon show. At the conclusion of the Rodeo, hundreds of spectators were treated to an elaborate display of fireworks, sponsored by the Fire Department and the Marshall Merchants Association.

French Broad EMC Plans No Rate Increase

On June 30, on a 4 to 1 decision of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, additional emergency rate increases were granted to Duke Power Company and Carolina Power & Light Co. Duke was granted a 7 per cent increase. 5.63 per cent increase. However, French Broad EMC plans no additional rate increase other than the increase already effective on bills rendered on and after June 20. French Broad EMC rates are now less than those comparative rates of CP&L.

French Broad EMC regrets the necessity of having to raise its rates for the first time in the history of the Cooperative. It was the decision of the directors and management of the Cooperative to establish a new rate level sufficient to prevent having to ask for another rate increase in a few months. All efforts will be made to insure that no additional rate increase will be necessary. This new rate for CP&L and Duke is the

second increase for this year and it again demonstrates the difficulty now being experienced by all public utilities since cost increases and inflation have finally hit the utility industry. French Broad EMC is making every effort to keep rates as low as possible.

District Court Here July 14-15

A two-day term of District Court will start here next Wednesday with Judge James Holshouser, Sr., presiding. The term will include criminal cases and will be non-jury. It was stated. The term will conclude on Thursday.

POSTAL SERVICE DAY was celebrated at Mars Hill last Thursday with elaborate decorations of the post office building and with a special first day cover ceremony. Vernon E. Wood, retired Mars Hill College professor and the most avid stamp-collector in town, received the first local issues of a new stamp and a souvenir envelope. On hand for the occasion were (l. to r.) Finley Johnson, postal employee; Alf Huff, postmaster; Prof. Wood; and William Powell, mayor of the town.

County Man Is Hit-Run Victim; Soldier Arrested

A man reportedly absent without leave from the U. S. Army was arrested Tuesday afternoon in Del Rio, Tenn., in connection with the alleged hit-and-run killing of a Madison County man, according to

Coke County, Tenn., Sheriff Kenneth Holt. Madison County Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said the body of Elmer Sexton, 33 of Hot Springs Rt. 3, was discovered about 2 p.m. Monday below an embankment

off U. S. 25-70 in the Wolfe Creek, Tenn., section near the state line.

Sheriff Holt said Jerry Gentry, about 20, of Del Rio, was arrested about 3 p.m. Tuesday after an intensive investigation by both the Coke County and Madison County sheriffs' departments which began Sunday, when Sexton was first reported missing.

Sheriff Holt said Gentry had admitted to "hitting something" Saturday night near where Sexton's body was found.

Sexton was last seen about 9:30 p.m. Saturday when he left the home of relatives in the Wolfe Creek community to walk to his home across the line to the Fairview community in N. C. The body was found about two-and-a-half miles from Sexton's home, Sheriff Ponder said.

When Sexton did not return Saturday night, the family thought he had stopped along the way for the night and did not report him missing until Sunday morning, Ponder said.

A search was started Monday by residents of the Fairview community and deputies of both sheriff departments, and the body was found below the road after a relative found one of Sexton's shoes along the highway.

Sexton, a disabled Korean War veteran, was working for the Forestry Service at Hot Springs as a part of Operation Mainstream.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. McKinley Sexton of Hot Springs; and two sisters, Mrs. Paul Ellison of Del Rio and Miss Lillian Sexton of Hot Springs.

Services were held a 2 p.m. Wednesday in Antioch United Methodist Church.

The Revs. Hubert Lamb and Paul Heffner officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Maloy's Funeral Home, Newport, Tenn., was in charge of arrangements.

Two Seriously Injured In Head-on Collision

Several persons were injured, at least two seriously, in a head-on collision on the Weaverville By-Pass ramp near Newbridge at 6:44 a.m. Sunday, the State Highway Patrol reported.

Admitted to Memorial Mission Hospital were William Cutshaw, 24, of Marshall Rt. 5, identified by State Trooper D. L. Younts as driver of one of the vehicles; and Bobby Cutshaw, 16, of the same address.

The older Cutshaw suffered a compound fracture of the left leg and a fracture of the right

leg, and several bruises and cuts. He was listed in fair condition. Bobby Cutshaw suffered a back injury, and was listed in satisfactory condition.

Younts said the car driven by Cutshaw was going the wrong direction on the ramp and his car collided head-on with one driven by a man from Virginia. Younts charged William Cutshaw with driving intoxicated, and set trial for September in District Court.

The occupants of the car from Virginia were not seriously injured, the patrolman said.

X-ray Clinics For Teachers, Other School Personnel

Lawrence B. Burwell, MPH, Madison County health director, has announced special chest X-ray clinics for teachers and other school personnel. The clinics have been arranged through the cooperation of Dr. C. D. Thomas, Medical Director at the Western North Carolina Sanatorium, Black Mountain.

The special chest X-ray clinics will be held at the Health Department on Thursday, July 22, and Friday, July 23, between

Singing

The regular 2nd Sunday night singing will be held this Sunday at the Alexander Baptist Church. All singers and listeners are invited.

the hours of 9 and 12 a.m. Teachers or other school personnel desiring an x-ray should contact the Health Department at once for an appointment. X-rays will be made by appointment only, and the charge for the chest x-ray will be \$2.00.

As part of the school health examination certificate required annually, each teacher or other school employee having contact with children is required to have annually either a tuberculin skin test or an x-ray of the chest. Tuberculin skin testing is available at the Health Department each Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12 Noon and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.



PICTURED ABOVE is "Jeannie", the three-year-old Beagle pet of Bobby Frank Rector of Marshall, who became a heroine on Wednesday of last week.

"Jeannie" Delivered Distress Note Of Injured Lady Here

By JIM STORY

It was "Jeannie", three-year-old Beagle of Bobby Frank Rector of Marshall who perhaps saved the life of Mrs. John Anders after Mrs. Anders had fallen down a flight of steps in front of her home here on Wednesday afternoon of last week.

In the fall Mrs. Anders, 78, sustained a broken left leg and fractured left shoulder. She had lain in pain for about an hour unable to summon help or to attract attention. It was at this point that quick thinking on the part of Mrs. Anders and the presence of "Jeannie" resulted in the rescue of Mrs. Anders.

She fortunately had her handbag with her when she fell and she found a blank check and pencil in the bag and wrote the following message: "Fred come and help me. I fell and can't get up. Mag Anders". (The Fred referred to is "Shorty" Rector, father of Bobby Frank. The Rectors live several hundred feet across the highway from Mrs. Anders.)

She tucked the note in the collar of the dog and ordered the dog

to go home. "Jeannie" obeyed and headed down the highway and straight home. As the pet Beagle started up the steps of the Rector home, Fred and Robbie (Mrs. Rector) noticed the note in the dog's collar and quickly went Mrs. Anders aid. They immediately notified Mrs. Anders' daughter, Mrs. Hubert Rector, who lives directly across the highway from the "Shorty" Rector home. An ambulance was called and Mrs. Anders was rushed to Aston Park Hospital where she is being treated.

Needless to say, Mrs. Anders will never forget the heroism of "Jeannie", who sensed the emergency and further proved that a dog is man's best friend.

Highway Project Not Affected By Nixon Veto

Construction of a new section of the Appalachian development highway will not be affected by President Nixon's veto of a bill containing funds for the Appalachian Regional Development Commission, according to Frank L. Hutchison, 13th Highway Division engineer.

Hutchison said Tuesday that funds for the eight-mile stretch across Buncombe and Madison counties—from the end of the existing Weaverville bypass at North Buncombe School to the intersection of N. C. 36 and U. S. 19-23 near Mars Hill—were set aside several years ago. The SHC announced plans shortly after the veto to advertise for bids Nov. 2 and open them Nov. 23.

Rep. Taylor Back In Office

Rep. Roy Taylor returned to work at the Congressional Office Building Tuesday after undergoing surgery on his gall bladder last month.

Taylor will work an abbreviated schedule until he has completely recovered, an aide said.

He entered the hospital June 19 and was discharged to his Washington apartment June 27.



POSING for a group photograph at the beginning of the new United States Postal Service were the employees of the Mars Hill office: (l. to r.) Finley Johnson, clerk; Bobby Joe Hernandez, sub. clerk; Robert Briggs, carrier; Elwood Waldrop, carrier; Robert Jarvis, sub. clerk; Alger Holfield, carrier; James Robinson, custodian; and Alf Huff, postmaster since 1951. Missing when picture was taken were Lowell Merrill, (clerk) and Earl Deyton (maintenance).