

THE NEWS - RECORD

VOLUME 70 — NUMBER 31

MARSHALL, N. C. — THURSDAY, AUG. 5, 1971

10¢ PER COPY

Madison's 'Aunt Rilla' Ray Tuning Up For Folk Festival

Mrs. Rilla Wallen Ray of Madison County plans to be in Asheville one or two nights this week for the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, which opens Thursday night in City Auditorium.

She plans to pick her banjo and perhaps fiddle a little.

And, since she loves a good square dance, she will tap a toe and lift her heels in a clog step native to these mountains.

Bascom Lamar Lunsford's festival, rich in the tradition of its 44 years, is elderly as folk festivals go. For Mrs. Ray it will be an opportunity to celebrate her 86th birthday.

At 85, Mrs. Ray maintains her home, tends her flowers, oversees a farm or two, and in the way of mountain people isolated from neighbors by high ridges and fast rushing stream, is eager to gather with friends and have a romping good time.

She remembers coming from Madison County to Mr. Bascom's home on South Turkey Creek, and the dancing platform he had on an oak-shaded knoll.

"Mr. Lunsford was great for dancing. If it was too cool outside, he'd have a fire in his big fireplace. Then he'd just roll back the rug. Talk about dancing. We'd have a good time!"

It has probably been a decade since the Squire of South Turkey

Creek, now 89, has roamed the woods of his native Madison County. However, Mrs. Ray remembers his visits to her farm home in the Laurel River section.

"He'd come to stay all night so as to go deer hunting with Byard in the morning."

Byard is her son, Byard Sneed Ray, a traditional fiddler of fame, whose playing of the Gray Eagle formally opens Mr. Bascom's festival.

Mrs. Ray recalls the Squire of South Turkey Creek as a "jolly old man" who loved to laugh and tell stories. One of his stories recalls an episode with another Madison County deer hunting companion, banjo picker Obrey Ramsey.

When faced with the fording of a swift-moving Laurel River on a cold November afternoon, Obrey had offered to carry the venerable Lunsford across on his back, only to release the self-pleased folklorist into the Laurel at its midpoint.

"Aunt Rilla" comes by her musical skills in a manner traditional to the mountains.

"When I was little my uncle, Mitch Wallen, fiddled and played the fife. I learned from listening to him, and I played the banjo until I got married. Then about six years ago my grandson gave me his banjo and I've been playing ever since."

Her three children learned to

play in their turn.

"My daughter Pauline, she plays the organ. And Otis Ray, he lives in Arden, can fiddle and play the banjo. Why he can sing so as to make your flesh almost crawl. Of course Byard he can fiddle real good, but he can't sing."

Aunt Rilla Ray mentions with frequency the name of her late husband, Champ Ray, himself one of Madison County's more colorful personalities.

"We squeezed through real tight during the depression. He'd cut timber logs. I'd run things and manage the paying off of land notes. Things have changed a lot. I am through the hard way."

She prides herself on her independence, her health and her knowledge.

"I got more sense now than I ever had. I can remember better now. I bought a set of encyclopedia books. They've got mighty good reading in them."

She recalls the Presbyterian School in Marshall and the interest she and her sisters aroused in the young men of the day. Today she is no longer concerned with possible romance.

This week Aunt Rilla turns 86 and she'll be coming to Asheville for some fun.

"Mr. Lunsford is counting on me being there."



AUNT RILLA WALLEN RAY

Arrest Made

Marshall Couple Kidnapped Last Night; Now At Home

One of Marshall's most prominent families had a harrowing experience Wednesday night but are fortunately back at their home on the Walnut Creek Road in Marshall, unharmed but a bit in need of sleep.

It all started about 10 p.m. Wednesday night when Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wild returned to their home after visiting Mrs. Wild's sister, Mrs. Margery McDaniel.

When Mr. and Mrs. Wild arrived at their home, Mr. Wild entered the house to open the garage doors, leaving Mrs. Wild under the steering wheel. When he entered the house, he was met by a stranger who held a pistol on him and ordered him

back to the car. After forcing Mr. Wild at gun point to the car, he told him to get in and then ordered them (Mr. and Mrs.

Wild) to drive him to Gastonia, which they did.

Mr. Wild stated this morning that the man had discovered his pistol in the home and it was his pistol that he used. The man also was wearing some of Mr. Wild's clothes, it was stated.

After arriving in Gastonia, Mr. Wild said that the man directed them around several back alleys and then got out of the car. "Frances and I then headed back toward Marshall, arriving here about 5 a.m. this (Thursday) morning."

He stated that the kidnapper did not threaten them nor harm them in any way and was "very polite."

Sheriff E. Y. Ponder was notified of the incident and left Marshall early this morning for Gastonia where he is investigating the incident.

— Bulletin —

Sheriff Ponder stated to this newspaper this morning that Paul Kelley, 26, of Gastonia, has been arrested and is now in the Madison County jail, charged with Breaking, Entering, Larceny and Kidnapping in connection with the Roy Wild incident.

Ponder said that Kelley escaped from the Maintenance Shed in Marshall Tuesday.

Collision At Hayes Run Sat. Injures Youth

A collision at the intersection of US 25-70 and NC 213 at Hayes Run last Saturday afternoon resulted in Grady Martin of Marshall being severely cut and bruised. Fortunately the five passengers in his car were uninjured. The occupants in the truck which was struck from behind by the Martin vehicle were also uninjured.

According to investigating officers, the truck driven by Tom Shook of Marshall Rt. 2, and bearing two passengers, Mrs. Jessie Worley and her mother, Mrs. Jack Ball of Marshall, Rt. 6, had stopped at the intersection to let an on-coming car pass before turning onto NC 213 (Mars Hill Highway). The car driven by Martin, traveling east toward Asheville from Marshall, was unable to stop on the wet pavement and struck the truck from the rear, causing both car and truck to swerve stopping crossways the highway jammed together. The door of the Martin car had to be torn open before Martin could be released. He was rushed to the Memorial Mission Hospital where he was

treated for severe lacerations and bruises. Uninjured in the car were Richard Meadows, Jackie Moore, both of Marshall; and Davis Karnot, and Mr. and Mrs. Mack Darham of Garfield, Oregon.

Little League

At Laurel

The Laurel Ruritan Club will sponsor an Invitational Little League and Babe Ruth Tournament on the Laurel school diamond beginning next Monday at 6 p.m.

The tourney will consist of three 5-inning games per night and will single elimination. Both divisions of Little League teams (8-10 and 11-13) will participate. Also Babe Ruth teams are invited.

Engraved trophies will be presented to the winners. If interested in participating, phone 656-2384 not later than this Saturday.

Police Report

The Marshall Police Department reports the following from July 20 to August 2:

Two-car accident on Bridge St.

Three-car accident on Redmon Road.

1 box of bananas taken from sidewalk at A&P store.

Called to old Ramsey place. Kids throwing trash and bottles in road.

Two tires stolen off car in lot at Service Motor Sales.

Two-car accident at Hayes Run Bridge.

Depot door found open at 5 p.m. Called operator and checked. Nothing missing.

100 parking tickets given.

Rummage Sale

The Leicester Grange will sponsor a rummage sale at the courthouse here next Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children's school clothes will be featured.

Crafts Festival, Jamboree In Burnsville

The 15th annual Mt. Mitchell Crafts Festival, sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled this year for August 6th and 7th and will be held on the Village Green in Burnsville. Once again, Mountain craftsmen will come from Yancey and the surrounding areas to display and sell their crafts in a two-day festival which attracts visitors from far and near. In the usual tradition of the Festival, several of the craftsmen will demonstrate how their crafts are made. New features of the event this year will be Claymer Miller, a glassblower from Asheville who will show visitors

how glass is blown; Mrs. Frank Eury from Albemarle, who will demonstrate the art of hooking rugs; Mr. and Mrs. Wade Boling, ceramic craftsmen from Hendersonville; and Mart Huskins, a local craftsman from Seven Mile Ridge in Yancey County who splits oak boards with a froe and mallet. In the early morning hours of Saturday, Aug. 7, the first of hundreds of chickens will be placed on the barbecue grill in preparation for the appetites of the people who attend the festival.

On Thursday night before the festival opens on Friday, the fourth annual Yancey Youth

Jamboree will open at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of East Yancey High School near Burnsville. The Jamboree, also sponsored by the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for both Thursday and Friday nights and will be made up of Yancey County youngsters of school age who will display

their talents in folk music, singing, and dancing. The purpose of the Jamboree is to give the youth an opportunity to pass along a rich heritage from their ancestors and to provide a scholarship for a worthy senior at each of the county's two high schools.

Historical Meeting Postponed

The August meeting of the Madison County Historical Society scheduled for Saturday in Hot Springs has been postponed until early September. The same plan for the August meeting will be carried out in September.

The group will assemble at the home of Mrs. Peggy Dotterer at noon for a picnic lunch

and discussion of the history of Hot Springs.

Date of the meeting will be announced later.

Draft Board Open

Miss Glenna Ray, clerk of the Madison County Draft Board Office, has announced that the office located on Main Street in the L. B. Ramsey Building is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 8:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Conserving Base Requirement, Use Of Set-Aside Acres Stressed

Crop acreages have now been certified, and producers are reminded of the need for compliance with the conserving base established for their farms." Emory Robinson, chairman of the Madison County ASC Committee, said today.

The conserving base represents that acreage which must be devoted to some con-

serving uses on the farm in addition to any acreage required to be set-aside under applicable program provisions, Mr. Robinson explained. "This means that if a producer is participating in the wheat and/or feed grain program on his farm, he must plant within the acreage remaining after adding the set-aside acres and the farm's conserving base and subtracting this total from the farm's total cropland acres."

Robinson said that farmers could not harvest a crop of any kind from their set-aside acres until after Dec. 31, and that they

could not graze set-aside acres until after the "prohibited grazing" period. This period ends on September 30. Set-aside acres must be maintained in a soil conserving use. This includes control of erosion, weeds, insects and rodents.

Robinson explained that if a farmer does not comply with the conserving base and set-aside acreage requirements, he may lose all or a substantial part of the program benefits to which he would otherwise be entitled and that the responsibility for making certain that the conserving base and set-aside requirements are met

falls primarily on the farm operator, but that each producer on the farm has certain responsibilities too, because his benefits are reduced if total benefits for the farm are reduced.

In conclusion, Mr. Robinson said that while most program participants are familiar with these regulations, producers who might have questions or need further information should call or visit the County ASCS Office.

Dorland-Bell Reunion Set For Sunday

The Dorland-Bell Homecoming will be held in Hot Springs this Sunday, it has been announced by Mrs. Agnes B. Ford, secretary DBS Student Association.

Activities will begin Sunday morning with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m. in the Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Rev. George Moore, pastor, will deliver the sermon.

Picnic dinner will be served at 12 noon and those attending are asked to bring a picnic basket. The dinner will be enjoyed on the church lawn if weather permits. Otherwise, dinner will be served in the fellowship hall.

Y.C.I. Annual Meeting Saturday

The Y.C.I. Association will hold the annual meeting in the Burnsville Elementary School building Saturday, Aug. 7. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

and run until 12 noon. All former teachers and students are invited to bring their families and a picnic lunch.

Baptist Association Convenes Tonight

The French Broad Baptist Association will convene at the Mars Hill Baptist Church tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock with the Rev. Richard Price, pastor of the Mars Hill Church, delivering the Association Sermon.

Friday's sessions will be held at the Piney Mountain Baptist

Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Various reports and business will be conducted. The Rev. Truman Fisher, pastor of Upper Laurel Baptist Church, will deliver the Missionary Sermon at 11:30 o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to attend this year's meetings.

Farmers Field Day Next Wednesday

A field day is to be held at the Greeneville, Tennessee Tobacco Experiment Station Wednesday, Aug. 11. The tour begins at 9 a.m. and continues as the group arrives. Items to be observed are alfalfa varieties, burley varieties, corn blight and virus testing, burley weed control, beef calves, and yearling bulls. Lunch will be served on the grounds by a local Home Demonstration Club. There will be an afternoon educational program on the grounds. The topic is "Outlook for Agriculture During the 70's." Farmers, wives, V-Ag students, and others are invited to attend.



HERE IS A PICTURE of Mars Hill taken from a helicopter by Hugh Morton, possible candidate for governor, as he was on a political fact-finding tour of Western North Carolina recently. Morton visited Madison County on July 15.