

THE NEWS - RECORD

VOLUME 70

MARSHALL, N. C.—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1971

NUMBER 16

Full Support Voiced For Weaverville-Marshall Highway

By JAY HENSLEY

The proposed \$10.7 million four-lane highway from Weaverville to Marshall received the unanimous endorsement of government and civic leaders from Buncombe and Madison counties at a public hearing Tuesday on the roadway design.

R. W. McGowan, the State Highway Commission's assistant chief engineer for preconstruction, said actual right of way acquisition for the 8.9 miles of controlled access highway cannot begin until the draft statement of the project's environmental impact is approved by the federal government.

The relocation of U. S. 25-70 from the Marshall Bypass to the Weaverville Bypass would be a federal aid project, with initial construction costs shared half by the state and half by the federal government, McGowan said. The hearing was held in Marshall High School.

"We have been talking about this 23 or 24 years. I am delighted to know it will be a four-lane highway, and I hope it will be built in our lifetime,"

said Jack Barfield, chairman of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce's highway committee.

Zeno Ponder of Marshall, who said he was speaking strictly as an individual, asked that the SHC consider a change in the design to allow construction of a traffic interchange at the proposed location of a grade level intersection at Jupiter Road.

"I wholeheartedly endorse this project," Ponder said, and told SHC officials he feels the Jupiter intersection will handle about as much traffic as all the others on the route combined, including considerable school bus traffic to Red Oak, Flat Creek, Weaverville and North Buncombe.

Ponder said very few motorists, given the alternatives which would be available to them, would pass up the chance to travel the four-lane road, putting heavy traffic on the Jupiter intersection.

His proposal was endorsed by Gordon Greenwood, chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, and by

William J. Brigman, principal of Red Oak School.

Brigman said the primary concern at Red Oak is the fact that the school will have buses crossing the four lane highway going to North Buncombe High School and returning in the afternoon, and urged the construction of some type of cloverleaf interchange at Jupiter Road.

"This suggestion should be given further consideration, but let me say again, not to the extent of delaying this project one day," Ponder said.

Greenwood said the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners supports the highway relocation project "100 per cent" and told the highway officials it is his personal opinion that the new roadway would "bring Madison County back into the State of North Carolina."

Pointing out that he has strong ties with the county, Greenwood said that Madison has been "out of the state" since they decided to go the other direction with Interstate 40 referring to the Pigeon River

route to the west into Tennessee.

"This road is good, as far as it goes, and we support that. We hope no time will be lost in completing the road from Marshall to the Tennessee state line so we can get part of the tourists who are going in the other direction," Greenwood said.

Greenwood said the Buncombe commissioners also support the request for a design change to put in an interchange at Jupiter Road, and said that the people of his county are in favor of anything to bolster the economic situation in Madison.

W. W. Shope, former mayor of Weaverville, said his community has worked for years for a good road to Marshall and told the highway officials the proposed design is supported by the civic clubs in his area and as well as the governing body.

"The City Council and the entire population of Weaverville are in favor of this road, and have been for years," Shope said. He said the people of Newbridge and other nearby communities are also strongly

in favor of the relocation of U.S. 25-70.

Ed Morton, president of the Marshall Lions Club, was the first speaker at the hearing following an explanation of the route by McGowan and William Garrett, his administrative assistant.

Emphasizing that Madison County is "a part of North Carolina," Morton said there is now only about 500 feet of four-lane highway within the boundaries of the county.

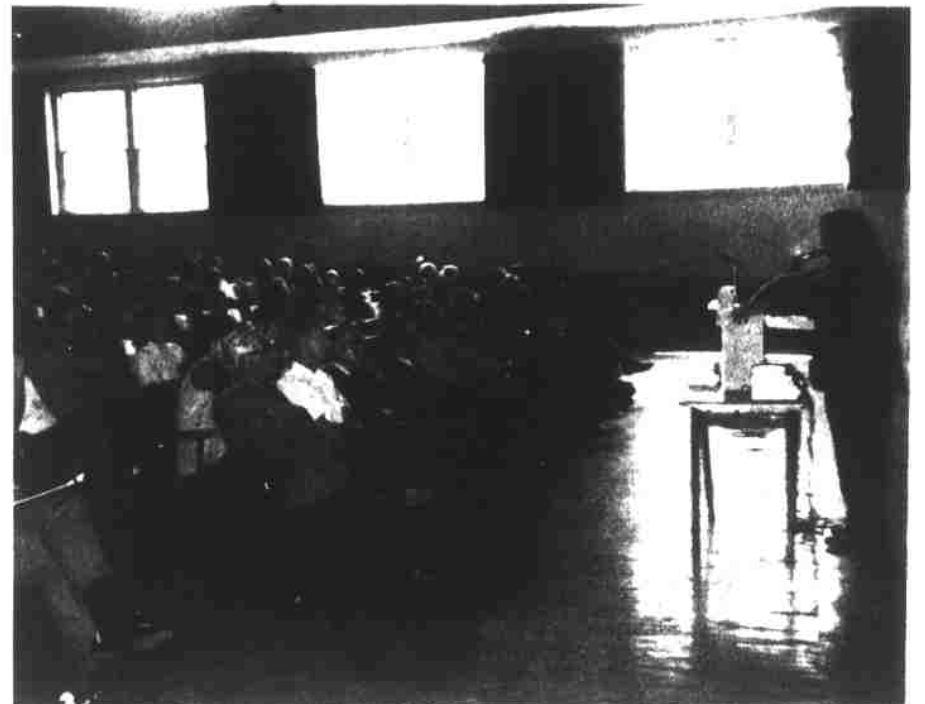
Jonas Chandler, cashier at Citizens Bank of Marshall, said the bank has been involved in the economic affairs of Madison County for more than 60 years, and that the directors and officers asked him to convey the strong support of the institution for the proposed road improvements.

"We urge its completion at the earliest possible date. The welfare of the people depends on good transportation, and the bank supports the project without reservation," Chandler said.

Troy Gudger, president of the Weaverville Mens' Club and

assistant chief of the fire department and rescue squad, and Dean Shields, operator of Radio Station WMMH, also spoke in favor of the project.

Shields said that, like Greenwood and Morton, he is interested in "putting Madison County back in North Carolina." Noting that the Asheville Tobacco Market opens Monday, Shields said as many burley growers go to Tennessee to sell their leaf as to Asheville, adding that a good road would keep some of the business in the state.



TOP PICTURE shows R. W. McGowan, State Highway Commission's assistant chief engineer for preconstruction, explaining various phases and design of the proposed relocation of Highway 25-70 between Marshall and Weaverville at a public hearing held in the Marshall school auditorium Tuesday afternoon before a large audience.

Paper One Day Early Next Week

The News-Record will be published on Wednesday instead of Thursday next week due to Thanksgiving.

Advertisers and correspondents are asked to prepare their copy one day earlier than usual.

Pat Taylor Spoke At Democratic Dinner Saturday

It Governor H. Pat Taylor of Wadesboro, a Democratic candidate for governor of North Carolina, was the featured speaker at the Madison County Democratic rally and dinner held in the beautifully decorated gymnasium last Saturday night. More than 500 Democrats were present at the dinner which was sponsored by the Madison County Young Democratic Club.

Charles Huey, president of the local YDC, introduced guests and officials, both of Madison County and other counties.



Charles Huey, Pres. County YDC; Pat Taylor, Lieut.-Governor; Mrs. Christine Lester, Vice-Pres. YDC.

Among those recognized was John Powell, of Charlotte, State YDC President. Powell spoke briefly concerning the various county Young Democratic Clubs.

J. C. Wallin, Madison County Democratic Chairman, introduced Lt. Governor Taylor.

Taylor stated that "politicians who tell the people they can solve all their problems just can't be trusted." He said that politicians alone are not going to solve the problems of the state or the country.

"The governor of North Carolina, by himself, can't do much to make North Carolina a better place in which to live. It's got to be all of us working together," Taylor said.

Taylor, who as a candidate for lieutenant governor in 1968

lauded Representative Liston B. Ramsey and the people of Madison County in what they are doing for the school system.

Taylor highly commended the Decoration Committee for the design, motif and arrangement of the decorations in the gymnasium and said that they equalled or surpassed the decorations at the recent Vance-Aycock dinner held in Asheville. He suggested that those responsible for the local decorations should be asked to decorate for numerous state occasions.

Charles Huey, who designed and arranged the decorations with the cooperation of several others, had the speaker's table decorated by two 7-tier white wrought iron candelabra containing royal blue candles interwoven by white spider mums and snapdragons, red and candy-striped carnations and royal blue mums.

The main motif was the North Carolina State Flag and the United States Flag. These were beautifully arranged into a screen across the width of the gymnasium, each being 16 feet in height and 9 feet in width. Separating the flags was the Democratic symbol, "The Gray Donkey." The flag theme was carried out through the gym with both flags displayed on the tables, being separated by a single red carnation and royal blue candle.



Rev. Glen Whitley

Whitley Accepts Pastorate

The Rev. Glen Whitley, a native of Stanly County and former pastor of the Beech Glen and Bull Creek Baptist Churches in this county, has accepted the pastorate of the Marshall Baptist Church. He and his wife will move to Marshall this week and he will officially assume his pastorate here next Sunday.

Mrs. Whitley is also a native of Stanly and she and Mr. Whitley went through high school together. They were married on Sept. 7, 1940. They have three daughters, Mrs. Larry Mowder, of Pekin, Illinois; Mrs. Jerry Hensley, of Merritt, Ga.; and Mrs. John Ford of Little Rock, Ark. They also have three grandsons and three granddaughters.

Mr. Whitley attended Mars Hill College and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute where he graduated in 1959.

He worked in the Shipyard at Newport News, Va., for a number of years before entering the ministry in 1964.

He and Mrs. Whitley moved to Madison County in the latter part of May, 1965, and he was called to pastor the Beech Glen Baptist Church in July of that year. This church was only half-time and in early October of that year he was called as pastor of the Bull Creek Baptist Church where he served for four years. He has also served as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and First Baptist Church in Ramseur.

Mr. Whitley succeeds Coach Harrell Wood, of Mars Hill, who has served as interim pastor of the Marshall church since Oct. 1970.



BOTTOM PHOTO shows four officials discussing the project which was unanimously endorsed at the hearing. Left to right, Novile C. Hawkins, Highway Commissioner; Liston B. Ramsey, county representative to General Assembly; F. C. Hutchison, Division Engineer; and Gordon Greenwood, Chairman Buncombe County Commissioners.

Dr. W. A. Sams, Prominent County Physician, Passes



Dr. W. A. Sams

Dr. William Albert Sams, a Madison County physician since 1919 and a former Madison County Democratic representative in the State Legislature, died Wednesday morning, Nov. 17, in an Asheville hospital following a long illness. He was 83.

Dr. Sams was born Dec. 29, 1888, in Flag Pond, Tenn., to the late Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Sams.

He attended the old Free School in Flag Pond and entered Carson Newman College at the age of 13. He graduated from Mars Hill College in 1906.

Dr. Sams entered Tennessee Medical College in 1907 and graduated in 1911, interning at Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Knoxville.

His first practice was in Union, Tenn., in 1911, where he remained for seven years and had the distinction of being the first doctor appointed to a local draft board in 1917.

He served in the U. S. Army in Johnson City and Dayton, Ohio, and came to Marshall upon his discharge in 1919.

A Mason since he was 21, Dr. Sams was a Scottish Rite and 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Oasis Temple of the Shrine in Charlotte, a member of the Elks Club since 1935 and was a past master of Marshall Masonic Lodge.

He was a past exalted ruler of Asheville Elks Lodge, a past state president and past district deputy of the Elks and fraternal

organizations.

A member of Marshall Baptist Church where he was a former deacon, and Sunday School teacher, he was also former moderator of the French Broad Baptist Association.

He was formerly chairman of the Madison County Welfare Board, was county physician for 20 years and was a member of Marshall Civitan Club.

In the professional world, Dr. Sams was former counselor of the North Carolina Medical Society for the 10th district, president of the North Carolina Academy of General Practitioners and served as a delegate to many medical conventions.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Esther G. Sams; two daughters, Mrs. R. C. Rhea of Canton and Mrs. W. C. Lowe of Winston-Salem; five sisters, Mrs. Carrie Sprinkle of Gastonia, Mrs.

Annis Gillis of Biloxi, Miss.; Mrs. Estelle Anderson and Mrs. Jessie Cornett of Flag Pond and Mrs. Grace English of Marshall; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in Marshall Baptist Church with Dr. Hoyt C. Blackwell officiating, assisted by Harrell Wood. Burial was in Pritchard Cemetery. Pallbearers were Dr. J. Mark Sams, Ernest Teague, Roy English, Kermit Cody, E. Y. Ponder, Guy White, Wade Huey and Liston B. Ramsey. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Madison County Medical Society.

Howman-Duckett Funeral Home was in charge.

Local Student Is In UNC-G Honors Program

A student from Madison County is among the 76 students enrolled in the Honors Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for the fall semester of the 1971-72 year.

She is Linda R. Revis, a sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted T. Revis, Rt. 2, Marshall, who is majoring in German at UNC-G. She is participating in both the sophomore honors tutorial and seminar programs.

GOP State Convention In Charlotte

The Republican State Convention will be held in the Charlotte Coliseum this Friday and Saturday. The Convention will be preceded by three workshops (County officers workshop, Precinct officers Workshop, and Better Representation) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday at Ramada Inn, just a block from the Coliseum, with Mrs. Grace J. Rohrer, the vice chairman of the State GOP in charge. The Convention convenes at 2 p.m. Friday, and the N. C. Republican Party Banquet will

be held at the White House Inn at 7:30 p.m. Attorney General John N. Mitchell will be the speaker.

The Convention reconvenes Saturday morning at 10 a.m. in the Coliseum, recesses for lunch at 12 and reconvenes for the election of a new state chairman at 1:30 p.m. William E. Graham of Winston-Salem and Frank Rouse of Kinston are the front runners for the chairmanship. There is increasing speculation that Rep. Charles H. Taylor of Brevard will be nominated for chairman from

the floor, throwing the convention into a tailspin.

Mrs. Grace J. Rohrer, who has served as vice chairman since March 1970, thus far has no known opposition for the important post she holds.

Madison County has fifteen votes at the Convention and the County Chairman, Joe L. Morgan, indicated that a good attendance is expected for the County because of the keen interest in the race for the Chairmanship and the prospects for the 1972 elections in the state.

Perry Willis Nominated For Baptist Post

Perry G. Willis, a prominent churchman of the Upper Laurel Baptist Church, has been nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Baptist State Convention as a member of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention as the representative of the French Broad Baptist Association. Mr. Willis was recommended to the state organization by the leadership of the local Baptist Association in recognition of his years of service in many phases of Baptist work. He has served his church as treasurer, chairman of the Board of Deacons, Superintendent, and currently promotes local, state and foreign missions within the 48 churches of the French Broad



Perry Willis

Baptist Association.

His approval for membership on the General Board is expected at Charlotte Nov. 22-24 when the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina convenes in annual session in Owens Auditorium.