

THE NEWS - RECORD



Marshall residents living along Main Street and nearby areas were suddenly awakened about 4 o'clock last Saturday morning by the deafening noise of crushing metal, steel and iron as 17 cars of a Southern Railway freight train heading toward Asheville from Knoxville derailed here.

Two buildings near the track were heavily damaged as cars plowed into the rear of each building. A retaining wall between the building was also damaged.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the early morning wreck which was by far the most sensational train wreck in Marshall's history.

Five of the cars ran into the French Broad River and others were tilted on their sides from Upper Bridge Street to the railroad depot.

Traffic was stalled for hours at the crossing on Lower Bridge Street and the bridge across the river.

The derailed cars carried general merchandise, including lumber, twine, and hundreds of tons of U. S. No. 2 yellow corn. Cargo was scattered around the derailment scene.

An estimated 300 feet of rail were torn up and more footage bent and otherwise damaged. Various parts of freight cars, including wheels, springs and debris were strewn along the railroad.

A large derrick arrived on the scene about 10 a.m. and crewmen worked all day and late Saturday night getting the wreckage cleared away and repairing the tracks. Cars blocking the main track were lifted to the side in order that trains could start moving.

By early Sunday morning the expert Southern crews had laid new rails and train traffic resumed. Several more days will be required to completely clear the wreckage.

Most heavily damaged was the rear portion of Coal, Feed and Lumber Company. The strongly built brick building crumbled in the rear when a freight car crossed the side tracks and plowed into the structure. At the other end of the row, the back of Buckner's Electric Co. was smashed by derailed cars. Both damaged buildings are owned by C. L. Rudisill, Jr., Marshall banker and businessman. A retaining wall, owned by L. B. Ramsey,

was also damaged in the wreck. No estimates were available as to the damage resulting from the wreck.

Various opinions were expressed as to the direct cause of the derailment. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the wreck, according to the railway's Washington spokesman.

Thousands of persons flocked to Marshall Saturday to view the wreck and watch workmen clear the debris and cars from the tracks. Ropes were quickly put up in certain areas so spectators wouldn't hinder the work or get too close to the leaning cars and the damaged buildings. Main Street was jammed with cars but traffic was kept moving smoothly by overworked policemen. Some motorists, however, showed little feeling as they pulled up at service stations and other vacant spots, some locking their cars for hours.

Many persons were still viewing the results late Saturday night, Sunday and the first of this week.

A battery of Southern Railway policemen were on hand to prevent looting.

Many youths found "one-day employment" as officials hired them to salvage hundreds of cones of twine scattered along the block-long wreck area.

Local telephone workmen and crewmen from the French Broad EMC also assisted in disconnecting lines and replacing them when necessary.

One Southern Railway official stated that he appreciated the fine behavior and cooperation shown by spectators.

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17 Freight Cars Derail Here Saturday

Housing Atmosphere Is Good In Madison

By LINDA HARRELL, ASSOCIATE HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION AGENT

The consensus of the Madison County Builder's Meeting, held January 11 was that through cooperative efforts among the county builders, electric coop, loaning agencies, and the Extension Service, every family in Madison County would have the opportunity to live in a comfortable and modest house within a decade.

Over 45 building industry people crowded into the Madison Grill to be briefed on the various housing programs

in relation to the needs of Madison County.

Among the programs with such funds available is the Farmer's Home Administration with Mr. Eldridge Hill, County Supervisor, and the Federal Land Bank under the local direction of Mr. Cloice Plemmons.

James O. Buchanan of Raleigh, chief real estate officer with the FHA, said, "For the first time in history we have sufficient funds to take care of most of the people who come to us for housing assistance. He said the state had been allocated \$100 million in FHA monies for housing loans. "Enough for each of the 100 counties in North Carolina to have a \$1 million FHA program," he said.

Paul Laughrun, Western District Farmer's Home Administration Supervisor, encouraged the builders to discuss their views on building with the local Farmer's Home Administration officials. He also pointed out the need for the carpenters to work within the county if at all possible. One of the Farmer's Home Administration programs that received a good deal of attention was one on land development. It was learned that a non-profit corporation could be formed that would receive 100 per cent financing for building site development with paved streets, water and sewer. A county group is now looking into this possibility. It would provide a service to Madison County families.

During the windup question and answer period, the participants agreed that there existed the right combination of desire, need, and funds to make possible housing improvements for the county.

Adequate housing is one of the foremost needs in Madison County with 70 per cent of the homes being considered substandard. Woodley C. Warwick, Extension Housing Specialist, explained the Agricultural Extension Service's housing program from the University level to the local county office.

Ron Baker, representative of the Tarheel Electric Membership Corp. spoke on the increasing role electric coops were playing in housing throughout North Carolina.

Cloice Plemmons spoke of the new housing loan program of the Federal Land Bank that will be forthcoming to Madison County.

Davis Trial Nears End Here

Testimony was completed Wednesday afternoon in the trial of Earl Davis, charged with the murder of his wife, Mrs. Ruby Jean Plemmons Davis, on December 26, 1966 at their home in Walnut.

The trial started here Monday morning in a special term of superior court with Judge Thomas W. Seay, Jr., of Spencer, presiding.

The jury is composed of Buncombe County residents.

Davis, who has been a patient in Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, is represented by Attorney Joseph B. Huff, Solicitor Clyde M. Roberts and Robert "Bob" Swain are prosecuting for the State.

Lawyers are scheduled to start their arguments to the jury this (Thursday) morning and the jury will start deliberations following Judge Seay's charge, expected today.



Rural Housing Specialist Here Next Week

Thurman Burnette, Rural Housing Specialist from the Farmers Home Administration in Raleigh, will be in Marshall in the afternoon of February 3 and the morning of February 4 until 11 a.m. at the Farmers Home Administration office in the Citizens Bank Building.

Burnette will be available to talk with builders and developers in regard to developing rural housing sites for non-profit developers and all developers who are interested in helping applicants obtain building sites as well as all people in the area who are interested in housing.

The public is invited to come and make suggestions which will improve the Rural Housing program of the Farmers Home Administration, voice any complaints or ask any questions they might have. The session is to be very informal with no set program. Anyone interested in rural housing is invited to come by and talk with Burnette.



Girl Scout Cookie Sale Starts Friday

The annual cookie sale by Girl Scouts and Brownies will get under way Friday, Jan. 28. The scouts will be taking orders for cookies from Jan. 28 to Feb. 12. Cookies will be delivered from Feb. 28 to March 18.

The cookies come in five flavors: mint, butter flavored, pecanettes, peanut butter and assorted sandwich. The cookies are delicious fresh and freezer wrapped. Each troop receives 5 cents for each box sold. The remaining profit is used for our local camping programs such as Day Camp and Resident Camp at Brevard. Almost 4,000 scouts attended these camps during the 1971 summer. Camping equipment is also purchased. For example 12 boxes will buy a baker tent, 80 boxes a mountain tent, 14 boxes a 3 gallon water jug.

Anyone interested in buying cookies may contact any Girl Scout or call 649-2593 or 649-3602. Please buy and support this wholesome program for girls in our community.

Huey Attends Installation

Charles W. Huey, President of Madison County's Young Democratic Club, attended the installation of statewide officers in Charlotte Saturday.

At the Charlotte session, the keynote address was delivered by presidential hopeful Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey. National YD President Bob Allen of Arizona presented to outgoing N. C. President Charles Winberry a plaque honoring the Tar Heel Club as the nation's most outstanding club, as chosen at the national convention last November in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Nominees to the Asheville Area Board of Directors were elected and will be announced next week following the Area meeting in Asheville.

County Red Cross Goal Exceeded; \$3,235.55 Raised

The latest ideas and materials for building and remodeling will be on display at the 1972 Housing and Building Products Show in Charlotte on February 8.

The annual event, co-sponsored by the Carolina Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association and the North Carolina and South Carolina Agricultural Extension Service will contain some 150 exhibits featuring the latest in home building, major components and related services. It will be held in the Charlotte Merchandise Mart, located at 2500 East Independence Blvd.

According to Linda Harrell, Associate Home Economics Extension Agent in Madison County, the exhibitions will be designed to give people a chance to compare the latest ideas and materials used in building or remodeling a house—from the luxury type to the modest dwelling. Considerable emphasis will be given to getting the most for the housing dollar.

Complimentary passes are available from the local County Extension Service Office

Building And Remodeling Display Feb. 8

The recent membership drive in Madison County for the American Red Cross for the local branch was highly successful, it was announced at the annual meeting held at the French Broad EMC lobby Wednesday night.

Norris Gentry, chairman of the local branch of the Asheville Area Chapter, stated that latest reports indicated \$3,235.55 was raised. This exceeded the goal of \$3,150.00 by \$85.55.

Chairman Gentry told the directors and other interested citizens that he was more than pleased with the fine work done by the workers in various areas and especially thanked donors for their contributions.

"All workers did a marvelous job and I would especially like to thank the workers and donors of Hot Springs, Shutin and Spring Creek for their generous contributions," Gentry said.

In other official business, Mrs. James Cody, of Marshall, was elected to fill a two-year vacancy on the Madison County board of directors. Other members of the local board were re-elected for their previous respective terms.

Nominees to the Asheville Area Board of Directors were elected and will be announced next week following the Area meeting in Asheville.

Mausbie Ball Dies At 76; Headed French Broad REA



Mausbie Ball

Mausbie J. Ball, 76, of Rt. 5, Marshall, died early Tuesday, January 25, 1972 in Oteen Veterans Hospital after a lengthy illness.

He was president and one of the organizers of French Broad Electric Membership Corp., a veteran of World War I, a member of French Broad Masonic Lodge No. 292, AF and AM and a 32nd degree Scottish

Rite mason. He was also a well known farmer of the Little Pine section of Madison County.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Eunice Davis Ball; a son, M. J. Ball, Jr. of Rt. 5, Marshall; four daughters, Mrs. Fred Sluder and Mrs. Lon Sluder, both of Rt. 5, Marshall; Mrs. Bill Laughter of Arden and Mrs. Robert McKay of Springfield, Mo.; three brothers, Roy of Kansas City, Mo., Lida of Rt. 5, Marshall and Garland Ball of Rt. 1 Alexander; a sister, Mrs. Carl Roberts of Rt. 1 Alexander; and seven grandchildren.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. today in Marshall Presbyterian Church, of which he was a member.

Dr. Arthur F. Williams and the Rev. Dearl Brevard officiated. Burial was in Ashelawn Gardens of Memory. Pallbearers were Norris Gentry, Cline West, George Fisher, Craig Rudisill, Jr., William Roberts and Glenn Reeves, Jr. Honorary pallbearers were directors of French Broad Electric Membership Corp. Masonic graveside rites were conducted by members of French Broad Lodge No. 292.

Bowman-Duckett Funeral Home was in charge.

4-H Fund Raising Project To Begin

A 400 pound steer calf has been donated to the Madison County 4-H Clubs to be used as a fund raising project. Tickets will be on sale beginning Monday, Jan. 31, and may be purchased from 4-H club members, leaders, and Extension agents for \$1.00 each. In addition to the steer, there will be a second and third prize. Second prize will be an RCA seventeen inch, portable, black and white TV set, and third prize will be an RCA clock radio. All prizes will be given away Saturday, April 15, at 2 p. m. at the Courthouse in

Marshall. You do not have to be present to win.

Money received from the project will go to the N. C. State 4-H Development Fund as part of Madison County's share in the State-wide Development Fund drive to raise \$750,000 to be used in expanding and developing new and better camping facilities and expanding the Youth Exchange Programs for 4-H youth in North Carolina. Madison County's goal in this drive has been set at \$1,800. Plans are being made to reach this goal during 1972.

Genell Fox Retires From ASCS

Miss Genell Fox, Chief Clerk and Chief Program Assistant at the Madison County ASCS office in Marshall, retired last Thursday after 32 years of faithful service.

Members of the local ASCS personnel honored Miss Fox Friday afternoon with an informal party at which time she was presented gifts and red roses by the staff.

Ralph Ramsey, county ASCS director, lauded Miss Fox on her accomplishments and expert work and stated that the entire personnel would greatly miss her.

Miss Fox, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Everett Fox, who resided in the Tillery Branch section, began working in the Madison AAA (since changed to ASCS) office in 1938. In 1948, she moved to Asheville where she worked with the ASC as secretary and treasurer. She returned to Madison County office in 1955 where she has worked since that time.

Before starting work with the ASC, she taught school in Madison County for six years. A member of the Victory Baptist Church of Erwin Hills, Asheville, Miss Fox has served as Sunday School secretary for more than 20 years.

When asked what she planned to do now that she is retired, she replied that she intended to relax, sleep late, and enjoy television.

"Time No Longer Stands Still"
Page 2 - Today