

# THE NEWS - RECORD

## County's Welfare Funds Slashed \$17,865

Some counties will receive more state funds for the next fiscal year while others will receive less in a move to better equalize the local tax burden to support the public assistance programs and the local administration of all social services programs.

The State Board of Social Services, at its meeting on March 8, adopted a new formula for distribution of the \$4,660,000 appropriated by this past session of the General Assembly for this purpose for fiscal year 1972-73.

Under the new public assistance equalizing formula, 63 counties will receive funds and all 100 counties will

receive a share of the aid to county administration equalizing funds.

Based on the new formula, 45 counties will receive more combined state equalizing fund while the other 55 will receive less, however, the set amount of funds to be distributed in fiscal year 1972-73 are higher than will

be distributed this fiscal year (\$4,660,000 compared to \$4,130,134).

The old formula was based on four factors: the average public assistance money payments per capita, the number of public assistance recipients per 100 population, the sales and use tax per capita, and the adjusted individual income per capita.

assistance payments are \$131.8 million, and this is estimated to increase to \$146.1 million for 1972-73.

Total county estimated expenditures for administration of all social services programs for 1971-72 are \$25.4 million and it is estimated this will increase to \$28 million for 1972-73.

Commissioner Craig stated that these increases in costs are being caused by a continuing increase in both the number of public assistance recipients and the average monthly payments which they are receiving. The caseload in the aid to the families with dependent children program has been increasing drastically since the latter part of 1969. Fiscal year 1967-68 had 106,727 persons receiving assistance in this category with an average monthly payment of \$25.45 per person. In January of this year, there were 167,049 with an average monthly payment of \$32.37 per person.

The State Board of Social Services, aware of the increasing financial burden on the counties with their limited tax revenue, has for the past four sessions of the General Assembly requested additional state funds for aid to county administration of social services programs. Each session has denied these increases.

Madison County will receive \$53,300 for 1972-73, as compared to \$71,165 in 1971-72 which is a decrease of \$17,865.

## Book About Madison County To Be Published This Fall

"The Kingdom of Madison: Some Aspects of a Southern Mountain Region," is the title of a book about Madison County's history and folkways, to be published this fall by the University of North Carolina Press. It is the work of Manly Wade Wellman of Chapel Hill, author of more than fifty books, mostly of Southern history and fiction, and is based on nearly a quarter of a century of study of Madison County's highly individual past.

North Carolina, My book won't be one of apology—Madison County's people don't need me to apologize for them. Among them are some of my closest friends, people I admire and want to let others read about with admiration.

"There'll be no effort to hush up slurs on Madison County, often made by those who aren't qualified to judge. This work will notice the old, ugly name of 'Bloody Madison' and study the reasons it was given and whether the reasons are good ones. It won't ignore the

charges about blockage whiskey, or spiteful remarks about poverty and ignorance. No reason to ignore such things if they've been said.

"But main effort is to do justice to the strong qualities of pride, courage and self respect in Madison County, the vigorous frontier tradition of a people that literally carved its homes out of the mountains and sur-

vived a host of obstacles and dangers and triumphed over them. In particular, the work will study the precious treasure of folk music in Madison County, and some of those who have kept it alive.

"Madison County has produced sons and daughters who have been deservedly famous throughout the world and who have spoken on equal terms with kings."

"I've been gathering and organizing material for this book for many years," said Wellman in discussing the project. "Madison County is perhaps the least known and least appreciated county in



PICTURED above is the Marshall Lions Club 8-10 year old team. The team finished the season in third place in the YMCA West League. Pictured left to right front row are: John Goforth, Jeff Metcalf, Allan Stines, Mark Freeman, Jeff Johnson, Bobby Frisby. Second row: Mickey Massey, David Massey, Keith Flynn, Barry Chandley, Tobie Sprinkle. Standing: Ricky McDevitt, coach. Not pictured: Holden Nix, David Nix, Edwin Brigman, Luther Roberts, Steve Davis, and Mark Wilde.



PICTURED ABOVE is the Marshall Lions Club 11-12 year old YMCA West League champions. The trophy in front is currently being displayed in the window of Roberts Pharmacy. Pictured are left to right front row: Michael Cady, Bobby Chandler, Todd McCormick, Randy Norton, Kenny Ray, Second row: Ricky McDevitt, Coach, Burnette Moore, Paul Boone, Joey Plimmons, and Scotty Proffitt. Not pictured: Gary Griffin.

## Cattlemen To Vote On April 5

On April 5, North Carolina Cattlemen will be asked to vote in a referendum. The purpose of this referendum is to decide whether you wish to continue the promotional efforts of the cattle industry in N. C. through the efforts of the N. C. Cattlemen's Association. The Association has been charged with the responsibility of promoting the production, marketing, and consumption of beef and beef products in N. C. consumer education. Promotion can increase consumption in N. C., which, in turn, will increase the returns we receive from our livestock when sold.

You will be voting on the question: Are you for or against a continued assessment of 10 cents per head on all cattle sold for slaughter, as well as all other cattle sold during the next six years? This is a very small contribution and each of us will be "helping ourselves by helping others to more helpings of BEEF."

Wistfully, he added, "I've spent the night in more cabins between Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and Iron Mountain, Alabama, than anybody—and I know. Though he has been a man of many callings—lawyer, teacher, editor, lecturer, farmer, government agent, banjo picker and ballad singer—Bascom Lamar Lunsford's great success has been in the collecting and preserving of Appalachian folk music.

## Wanda Gosnell Galifianakis County Mgr.

Congressman Nick Galifianakis today named Wanda Gosnell as manager of his U. S. Senate campaign in Madison County.

A lifetime resident of Marshall, Miss Gosnell is employed by the Asheville office of the North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs. She has been extremely active in Young Democrats Club affairs, having served as president of the Buncombe County chapter and vice-president of the statewide organization. In 1969 she was named on eof the ten most outstanding Young Democrats Club members in North Carolina. She will be coordinating her efforts in behalf of Galifianakis with state campaign manager Russell Walker of Asheville.

After the announcement, Miss Gosnell said she had decided to work for the Democratic nomination for U. S. Senator in the May 6 Democratic primary, because, "the needs of the state, particularly those of Western North Carolina, call for representation which is responsive to the needs of the people rather than to the dictates of political expediency. Nick is a reliable leader who has specific solutions for specific problems."

## Lunsford Honored On 90th Birthday

Bascom Lamar Lunsford, the Minstrel of the Appalachians, celebrated his 90th birthday Tuesday, and in honor of his birthday two colleges and a host of his friends will bring out their banjos and dancing shoes and celebrate.

Festivities began Sunday at 8 p. m. at the University of North Carolina at Asheville where his friends cut a king-sized birthday cake in Lipsky Student Center, and then moved into the auditorium for an evening of singing and dancing. The only thing necessary for admission was to say, "I'm a friend of Bascom's."

Tuesday from 2 to 4 p. m. the Memorial Library Staff of Mars Hill College honored Lunsford in the college's 12th lounge. Lunsford's birthday coincides with the completion of the cataloging of his gift collection to the library. All of his instruments and recordings and the songs he has collected through the years are in the Mars Hill College collection. Looking back over those 90 years, Lunsford said, "The key to whatever success I have had has been in realizing the value of the fine tradition in mountain people."

Wistfully, he added, "I've spent the night in more cabins between Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and Iron Mountain, Alabama, than anybody—and I know. Though he has been a man of many callings—lawyer, teacher, editor, lecturer, farmer, government agent, banjo picker and ballad singer—Bascom Lamar Lunsford's great success has been in the collecting and preserving of Appalachian folk music.

Highlights of his career include giving a "command performance" for the king and queen of England in the White House, recording more than 600 folk songs from memory for the Columbia University Library and Library of Congress, organizing and conducting a number of folk festivals in which he stressed authenticity, and lecturing and performing on college campuses from coast to coast.

Bascom performs no more, but he loves to listen to others

pick and sing. "I try to sing a little sometimes," he said, "but my picking is over on account of my fingers. Time is the success of folk music and I can't get the timing anymore. I will say this about myself though: I picked a banjo as well as a banjo has ever been pucked. That's a word I made up."

A twinkle in his eye turned into a tear and rolled down his cheek as he looked back over the years. "When I was five years old," he said, "I got the feel of putting myself over and I haven't got over it yet. Used to be with song, now I have to do it with words."

Words have always meant a lot to Bascom Lamar Lunsford. The proper words, applied in the right places, he said, are mighty powerful. "I am known as the Minstrel of the Appalachians and the Squire of South Turkey Creek," he said, "and there's a good ring to those words. I used them for all they were worth in promoting the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in the Asheville City Auditorium because for me it was a business, and for years it was the only business I had, and the proper use of words or expressions can go a long way in running a business right."

That's the reason I always started the folk festival 'along about sundown.' Certain expressions like that stick in a person's memory and become strong. I always used that principle of folk tradition in my work. Lunsford recalled the time he changed some of the words to Judge Felix Alley's famous ballad, "Kiddler Cole," recorded it, and sang it from stages all over the country. "Hall Johnson was always an outspoken fellow," Lunsford said. "He bumped into Judge Alley one day and said, 'Felix, you may never amount to much as a judge, but this damn Lunsford is gonna make you famous.' I always liked that story."

Bascom was asked if he would look back across the years and name the best musicians he'd played with. "No," he said. "That's something I don't want

to say. They all have their good points and bad. But musicians are more jealous of one another than preachers or doctors.

"Here's the idea I always worked on: when you've got to put on a show, you've got to count on dependability a lot. One fellow might be better than another but you might not be able to count on him 'cause he might be out here drunk or something, so it isn't always the best musician who makes the music. I always worked on this motto: make few promises, and what you make, keep."

Bascom Lamar Lunsford had a stroke seven years ago which slowed him considerably from physical activities, but his memory is still accurate, and his advice is sought by all folk musicians.

"I give advice," he said, "and I give it to them straight." And right there this preference for instruments came out. "Folks ask me where they can find a dulcimer," he said, "and I say get a nice one and hang it on the wall where you can look at it, then take down your banjo and make some music."

His toes began to tap again, and he looked out across the street toward the barbecue house, then his gaze sought the center of the room, and he began to sing softly: "I sang a song into the air—I came to earth I knew not where—But long years after, from beginning to end—I found the song in the heart of a friend..."

## Cantata To Be Presented Sunday Night

An Easter Cantata will be presented at the Marshall Baptist Church Sunday night beginning at 7 o'clock. The cantata is under the direction of Dennis Wilson, minister of music. Charles Huey will be at the Hammond organ.

There will be a fellowship hour immediately following the cantata. The public is invited.



BASCOM LAMAR LUNSFORD, the Minstrel of the Appalachians, was 90 years of age this past Tuesday. The above picture, taken a few years ago, shows him with his favorite banjo.

## Dangerous mail items are banned

Sales promotions and contests that ask people to mail items which would cause injury to U. S. Postal Workers are now banned by law. The Postal Service says that in the past sales promotion techniques frequently resulted in the mailing of envelopes that contained "under-packages" metal and plastic articles.

Those articles—such as bottles, caps, jars, tops, can lids and metal package opening strips—can injure postal employees as well as damage mail processing equipment.

A Postal Service official told a Congressional hearing that such articles were actually being projected with considerable force by high speed mail sorting machines. Employees were also subject to injury when they

reached into collection boxes to remove mail that contained sharp metal objects.

The United States Criminal Code has long barred from the mails any article that may kill or injure persons, or damage mail property. The new law strengthens this bar by adding a section that reads:

"Any advertising, promotional, or sales matter which solicits or induces the mailing of anything declared nonmailable by this section is likewise nonmailable unless such matter contains wrapping or packaging instructions which are in accord with regulations promulgated by the Postal Service."

The law prescribes a fine of up to \$1,000 and imprisonment for up to one year for each violation.



MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL'S Future Farmers of America Land Judging team placed first in the district contest held last Friday afternoon at North Buncombe High School. They will represent the Buncombe-Madison County district at the meet in Wilmington on April 8 for the state title. Members of the team pictured above, are James Kent, Randy Fowler, David Ramsey, and Kenneth Roberts. They are coached by Jack C. Cole, advisor of the Marshall chapter of the FFA. Clyde A. Erwin High School team won second place and North Buncombe was third in the contest. Others entering were Mars Hill, Charles D. Owen, A. C. Reynolds and T. C. Roberson. The district winner received \$50 for expenses to state FFA camp and a plaque for the chapter. The contest has been sponsored for 17 years by Carolina Power and Light Company and the North Carolina Bankers Association. The state meet will be at John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington.

## Election Officials Are Appointed For County

The Madison County Board of Elections met on March 18, in the Board office. Pursuant to GS 163-41, this meeting was for the purpose of appointing registrars and judges for the ten (10) precincts of Madison County.

All Board members were present and the meeting was called to order at 11:30 a. m. by the Chairman. Others present were Joe L. Morgan, Ted McKinney, Walter Harrell, Howard Tino, W. M. Roberts, Max Wilson, and Harold Payne. After general discussion, the following election officials were appointed. Marshall—Ed Gentry, Registrar, Conley Goforth,

Democratic Judge; W. T. McKinney, Jr., Republican Judge.

Sandy Mush—Mrs. Blanch Walker, Registrar; Burnett Zack Reeves, Democratic Judge; Marshall Duckett, Republican Judge.

Laurel—Floyd Wallin, Registrar; Mrs. June Plimmons, Democratic Judge; G. M. Outshaw, Republican Judge. Mars Hill—Rex Sprinkle, Registrar; Richard (Dick) Anderson, Democratic Judge; Carl Cody, Republican Judge. Grapevine—Auburn Wyatt, Registrar; Mrs. Lucille Sprinkle, Democratic Judge; Harold Payne, Republican Judge.

Beech Glen—J. Bruce Phillips, Registrar; Jimmy Carter, Democratic Judge; Don Hall, Republican Judge.

Walnut—Glenwood Wallin, Registrar; Wayne Adams, Democratic Judge; Charles Easton, Republican Judge.

Hot Springs—John Ray Gardin, Registrar; Fred Moore, Democratic Judge; Curtis Roberts, Republican Judge. Ebbs Chapel—Porter Wallin, Registrar; Mrs. Betty Whit, Democratic Judge; Clarence Cody, Republican Judge. Spring Creek—Joe Justice, Registrar; Hardy Willett, Democratic Judge; Frank Hips, Republican Judge.