

THE NEWS - RECORD

County Tax Rate Set At \$2.00; Budget Explained

The 1972-73 fiscal year budget estimate was adopted by the Board of Commissioners at their regular July meeting on July 3. The commissioners set the tax rate for the year at \$2 per \$100 valuation.

A spokesman for the Board called attention to several factors which necessitated the 10% increase. Among the factors

which were beyond the control of the Commissioners were increases in Social Services of approximately \$20,000, increases in the Health Department of \$5,000 and a \$17,000 increase in Aid to Dependents and Disabled. Also noted was the Revaluation of Property program which is required by state law to be conducted each 7 years. This program called for an increase of \$40,000 in current appropriations. There was also a \$35,000 increase in the School Capital Outlay Fund to be funded by taxes, to provide for necessary repairs, expenditures, and additions to the various schools of the county.

The commissioners noted that in accordance with their promises and campaign pledges, they were meeting the \$57,000 requirement for the Debt Retirement Fund in

connection with the new Madison County High School from the 1c sales tax.

Attention was called to the

Phone Rate Hike Is Rapped At Hearings

More public witnesses expressed opposition to a proposed rate increase by Westco and Western Carolina Telephone Companies as Asheville hearings by the State Utilities Commission concluded Friday.

The commission has set July 11 as the date for the review of company testimony in Raleigh. A Murphy businessman testified Friday that while he must show a profit to stay in business, "a utility can be inefficient, and with a rate increase still stay in business."

John Rogacz, a vice president of Clifton Precision Co. of Murphy, said his company's annual telephone bill is \$30,000 and that the service has been very poor.

A Weaverville resident contended that the requested

increase is steep, saying that on a one-party line he would pay \$12.85 instead of \$7.65 as at present, while a business line would advance from \$15.50 to \$23.60 per month.

Problems in Marshall are frequent, Richard Wilde testified, in calling in and out of the town. Wilde, president of the Marshall Merchants Association, said the hike would be too high for the service provided.

Wilde said he was speaking not only for the Marshall area but for the entire county and he emphasized that the requested rate increase—about 70 percent—was "extreme" and unfair.

"Among the chief complaints frequently voiced in our town

and county include: Difficulty in getting operator, noise on the line, busy signals when phones are not in use, listings of so-called "toll-free" customers all printed together in directories,

people in Hot Springs and Mars Hill having to call "long distance" to the county seat here in Marshall, delay in securing phones, wastefulness of materials, and other complaints.

"I don't see how the Utilities Commission can approve such an increase under the present circumstances," Mr. Wilde concluded.

Joe Green, of Route 2, Marshall, also spoke in opposition to the rate increase, pointing out many deficiencies in the current telephone service in this area.

certain citizens over 65 who were able to meet the requirements resulted in at least \$100,000.00 being removed from the tax base. In the past, stock of Merchandise and

fixtures had been valued and taxed at 60 per cent of the listed value but under the new machinery act it is now listed at 45 per cent as is the real estate. This removed approximately \$1,000,000 from the tax base.

The Commissioners were unanimous in their opinion that with the completion of the revaluation program, plus the newly discovered property which had not previously been

listed, together with the new industrial and home building that the next years tax base would be large enough to enable the rate to be brought back to the 1971-72 level without reducing services.

Attention is noted that taxpayers should not compare the \$2 rate to be in effect with the apparently lesser rates in adjoining counties without trading into consideration the fact that the Madison County rate is applied to only 45 per cent of valuation whereas in other counties the percentage is much larger.

The Commissioners wish to assure the people of Madison County that every possible economy was effected in the making of the budget without lessening the services that are required by law and expected by the citizens. The budget estimate will be presented for adoption at the regular August meeting of the Board of Commissioners.



County's First Wagon Train Is Huge Success

By JIM STORY

Cowboy hats, boots, pistols, holsters, thick beards, plain and colorful shirts, tight-fitting breeches, jaws full of tobacco, strong, beautiful horses, unique covered wagons, tight-fitting saddles, insect sprays, easing ointment, clippitylop sounds, happy but tired youngsters, brave and loyal females, robust males, interested spectators, open fire cooking, sunshine, rain, dry clothing and bedding, wet clothing ad bedding, campfires, barking of dogs, loud snoring by a few, little sleep enjoyed by some, gentle handling of horses, friendly attitudes—all these partially describe the four-day Wagon Train adventure from Mars Hill to Marshall via Flag Pond, Tenn., Mouth of Smith Creek on PUNCHIN FORK, Roscoe Briggs' fish pond on Laurel, Mouth of Heck Creek on Walnut Creek and all territory between.

The Nixon administration has notified the state that it is releasing \$75.6 million for road construction during the fiscal year which starts July 1. North Carolina's share in the funds appropriated by Congress was \$99 million.

Major impact of the cut in funds will be in the interstate program, State Highway Chairman D. M. Faircloth said today.

When the journey began last Saturday morning, there were 14 wagons and some 87 horses with riders. Toward the end of the 4-day jaunt, more horses and riders joined the train and when the large group entered Marshall, it was an exciting scene as participants, wagons and more than 100 horses circled the main block in the business district and headed

Shadowline Announces Plans For M. H. Plant

Shadowline, Inc., today announced the purchase of a 34-acre tract at Mars Hill as the site of a new plant.

Sherrod Salsbury, president of the nationally known lingerie manufacturing company said the architectural firm of Six Associates, Inc., of Asheville has been retained to begin immediately plans for a modern plant designed to hold some 200 sewing operators.

In the meantime, Salsbury said, training operations will be started at once, without waiting for the completion of the building. Some sewing will begin the week of July 10 in the community building at Mars Hill, which will serve as a training center until the plant can be completed.

The products of the new Madison County plant will be basically the same as those made in the present plants at Morganton, Boone and Fallston.

The 34-acre site, known as the D. W. Ramsey property and purchased from Mrs. Octavia Ramsey, is on the northern outskirts of Mars Hill on N.C. 2313. A one-story building to be erected there will contain approximately 20,000 square feet, the exact dimensions being contingent upon detailed plans from the architect for a facility

to accommodate 200 sewing operators.

Actual start of construction will depend upon completion of plans and specifications for awarding a contract, and Salsbury declined to predict an exact timetable.

Key positions in the new Mars Hill plant will be filled by employees from the Shadowline organization. Plant manager will be Grant Jones who has been plant engineer at Boone. He joined the company two years ago.

Plant mechanic will be Jim Orders of Glen Alpine, who has been mechanic at the Morganton plant for five years. Mrs. Gloria Norris has been picked for the position of forelady. She currently holds the position of section girl at the Boone plant and has had ten years experience.

All three will move to Mars Hill to take up their new duties.

Before deciding on a new plant in Madison County, Shadowline conducted a survey of Mars Hill area to determine the availability of labor, Salsbury said. Surveys of the site have just been completed, including topographical studies and soil borings.

In a search for a general location for a new plant, the

company was assisted in an introduction to the area by Dr. Fred Bentley, president of Mars Hill College.

Jones, who will be plant manager, is currently residing at 1709 East King Street, Boone. His family consists of his wife, Mickey, their one-year old son, Kevin, and Jones' 15-year old brother, Randy.

Orders now resides at Glen Alpine and will be moving to Mars Hill with his wife, Elaine.

Mrs. Morris, the forelady for the new operation, has been residing at Route 3, Boone, with her three children—Pam, age 13, Jeffery, 11, and Teresa, 7.



SHOWN ABOVE IS the new Citizens Bank Drive-In Office which will open this Saturday at Mars Hill. The convenient structure is located at the corner of Cherry and Anderson Streets across from the Community Medical Center. More details are published in an advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

\$216,000 Loan Approved For Water Improvement

Rep Roy A. Taylor announced Wednesday that the Farmer's Home Administration has approved a \$216,000 loan to the town of Marshall for improvements to its water and sewer system.

Rep. Taylor said project plans include construction of a new sewage treatment plant,

three lift stations and additional lines to expand service to 15 additional users.

Water system improvements will include approximately 17,000 feet of distribution line, a new water treatment plant and renovation of the existing reservoir.

A total of 350 rural families and businesses in Marshall, including a new high school and

nearby industrial park, are serviced by the water-sewer systems.

Repayable in 40 years at 5 percent interest, the loan is financed under the Rural Community Facilities Program of the Farmer's Home Administration, a Department of Agriculture rural credit service.



PLANT MECHANIC Jim Orders discusses operations of the new Mars Hill plant of Shadowline, Inc. with two newly selected employees. They are Mrs. Frieda Robinson (seated), sewing machine operator, and Mrs. Loretta Ballard, instructor. Orders comes to the Mars Hill plant from Shadowline's Morganton plant. Mrs. Robinson resides on Route 2, Mars Hill. Mrs. Ballard resides on Stony Knob Road at Weaverville.



GRANT JONES, plant manager for the new plant to be established at Mars Hill by Shadowline, Inc., discusses plans with Mrs. Jean Edwards of personnel. Mrs. Edwards, wife of Paul Edwards, resides on Route 2, Marshall. She was formerly personnel manager of Hammariand.

State Road Funds Cut \$25 Million

North Carolina will get some \$25 million dollars less for roads during the next fiscal year than Congress appropriated, the State Highway Commission has been informed.

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Two that will be delayed, he said, are 1-77 in Surry County and 1-95 from Kenly to Gold Rock.

The 12-mile section at Hickory, one of the state's most critical highway needs, will take almost one-half of the \$47 million, Faircloth said. The state intends to get this project

to contract during the next year. He also pointed out that three projects in Iredell County on I-77 will have to be paved, which will require a substantial part of the remainder of the allocation.

"The attitude in Washington of praising the interstate system and urging its completion, but at the same time cutting the appropriations is puzzling," Faircloth said. "This is probably going to mean that some projects will be delayed a year or more."

In addition to the cuts in the interstate money, about \$5 million was lopped from the other federal allocations for construction on the urban, primary and secondary systems.



MRS. MARY CODY (left) of Route 1, Mars Hill, will be inspector at the new plant of Shadowline at Mars Hill. She is here examining a Shadowline product with Mrs. Gloria Norris who will move to Mars Hill from the Shadowline plant at Boone to become forelady.