

THE NEWS - RECORD

Postal Officials Explain New Area Mail Processing

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following an editorial and letter to the editor in the November 16 issue of this newspaper deploring the current method of handling mail and the delay regarding area cancellation of mail, G. M. Roberts, Customer Service Representative, of Asheville, and S. R. Kerley, Assistant Sectional Center Manager, Customer Service, of Asheville, met with Richard Wilde, president of the Marshall Merchants Association, Raymond Stines, of the local P. O. personnel, and Editor Jim Story here last Thursday morning. The two officials explained the current Area Mail Processing system for almost two hours during a "meeting of the minds" of the above.

The milk run and the old XYZ disappeared about the time farmer Brown's cow was run over by a new-fangled hot rod on the new super highway around East Littleton.

But the idea that mail between East and West Littleton should continue to travel only five miles is still argued fervently by residents of these and many other similarly situated communities.

Of course most mail never did travel that way. Even in the heyday of the old XYZ, relatively few communities received such direct service.

The idea that mail should go by the shortest routes between points has never been practical throughout the world's postal history with the possible exception of ancient times when only royalty enjoyed postal services and monarchs could dispatch couriers posthaste straight to any given points with admonition that their heads would become postage due should they dally along the way.

The point of all this is that the newly-expanded Area Mail Processing program by the Postal Service for more efficient handling of mail files in the face of the "straight line" of travel idea.

Postal Customers are entitled to know why letters from towns only a few miles apart — as the crow flies — travel 25 miles or so to a centrally located Maintown.

Another frequent question, asked by Postal Customers, is why mail for strictly local delivery must go 25 miles or so to Maintown for processing and then come 25 miles back.

Several key points are important in providing an understanding of why these seemingly senseless procedures make very good sense.

It is obvious, for example, that mail deposited on any given day cannot ordinarily be delivered in many cases until the next day.

From a service standpoint, it would make no difference to the customer if the letter went to Timbuktu for processing, providing it is delivered the next day.

Of course, nothing as outlandish as that happens, but it illustrates the main point, that the customer's proper concern is fast, safe, delivery and not ordinarily the steps that are taken between deposit and delivery.

The Postal Service's emphasis today on service standards

requiring next day first class mail delivery within local areas, and from the Asheville Sectional Center this includes the following ZIP Coded areas: Charlotte, N. C. — 280, Hickory N. C. — 286, Asheville, N. C. — 287, 288, Spartanburg, S. C. — 293, Greenville, S. C. — 296, Johnson City, TN — 376, and Knoxville, TN — 377, 378 and 379, is another reason why AMP is being expanded.

By concentrating much mail processing for a given area in a single postal facility large enough to utilize more advanced equipment, mail processing for the entire area can be handled more efficiently and in time to insure next day delivery of preferential mail to all points within the area.

Obviously, a West Littleton or a Pumpkin Center does not have the mail volume or the space to justify installation of new mechanization capable of processing millions of pieces of mail in a single evening tour.

But it is possible, and sensible, to concentrate mail for an entire area at larger sectional centers which can handle big mail processing equipment. The process also provides economics expected to help keep down rising expenses.

An added AMP bonus is faster handling and dispatch of outgoing mail from the strategically-located larger facility. It has needed transportation immediately available, including flights for airmail and space available mail.

For deliveries within the area, contract transportation also is already in operation out of the sectional center, using many daily star route roundtrips between the AMP main office and the smaller associate offices.

Cutshall Case To Be Heard

The hearing on a motion for a new trial for Leonard H. Cutshall was continued in Superior Court here Friday to 2 p. m. today, (Thursday) at Newland.

Judge Sam Ervin III of Morganton postpones the Cutshall matter after a busy week of handling Madison County cases.

Cutshall, 45, has faced trial three times in the Jan. 30, 1970, rifle slaying of Richard "Jack" Reeves, and is serving a life sentence.

His attorney has sought a new trial in the wake of an alleged confession by Cutshall's 20-year-old son, Dwayne, that it was he who killed Reeves as he sat in a car with Cutshall's former wife in front of Reeves' mother's home on Cook's Farm Road in the Bellview section of Madison County.

The defendant in another murder case, Carolyn Pressnell, charged with the shotgun death of her husband, had the charge nontested when it was taken up by the court Tuesday, court officials reported.

Ledford Is Commission Chairman

James T. Ledford, newly elected county commissioner, was named chairman of the board here Monday following the swearing in ceremonies.

Ron Howell, Marshall attorney, was named county attorney and William C. Reeves as retaining attorney. Hilliard Teague was elected as clerk to the commissioners; Emery Metcalf, tax supervisor; and Harold Wallin, custodian of the courthouse.



PICTURED ABOVE are the newly-elected officials of Madison County who were sworn in Monday morning by Judson Edwards, clerk of superior court. Seated, left to right, W. T. Moore, Ervin Adams and James T. Ledford, commissioners. Standing, left to right, Emery Metcalf, auditor; Hilliard Teague, register of deeds; Harold Wallin, tax collector. Also sworn in was Mrs. Christine Lister as Deputy register of deeds.

Micro-Switch Acquires Mars Hill Plant; Plans Start-Up In Spring

Micro Switch, a division of Honeywell, Inc., has acquired the manufacturing facilities and grounds of the former Hammarlund Manufacturing Company in Mars Hill. The modern 81,000-square-foot plant is situated on some 31 acres of land 17 miles north of Asheville.

James S. Locke, vice president and general manager of Micro Switch, made the announcement of the exercising of the option at a luncheon Friday with Asheville Area Chamber and Mars Hill officials.

Locke also introduced William A. Kloos, location manager of the new Mars Hill facility.

Kloos, a native of Iowa City, Iowa, began his career with Micro Switch in 1958. He has occupied a number of positions with Micro Switch, the most recent being superintendent of stamping and plastics.

P. Robert Enzler, manager of operations, said that training of the first group of assemblers would probably begin in late January. Enzler said that he expected basic switch assembly operations to begin by early spring. He estimated that several hundred employees would probably be hired over the next two years.

According to George M. Tisdale, vice president economic development of the Asheville Area Chamber, work with Micro Switch began in February of 1970.

"At that time they made an



WILLIAM A. KLOOS, a native of Iowa City, Iowa, has been named location manager of Micro Switch, at Mars Hill. He began his career at Micro Switch in 1958 after earning a degree in labor and management from the University of Iowa. He has occupied a number of positions in personnel and manufacturing. His most recent position was superintendent of stamping and plastics.

intensive study of the Asheville area. Plans advanced to the point that representatives of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute went to Freeport, Ill., to help develop training programs for the planned shift of operations," Tisdale said.

"However the national economic downturn caused them to shelve expansion plans," he concluded. Work was renewed in September of this year, Tisdale added.



PICTURED ABOVE IS Bruce B. Briggs, of Mars Hill, who was sworn in as District Court Judge (34th District) in the courtroom here Monday morning. Judge James E. Holshouser, Sr., of Boone, retiring District Court Judge, administered the oath. Judge Briggs donned his robe for the first time while standing under the picture of the late Judge Jeter Pritchard.

Court Results

Judgments rendered in superior court here last week include:

Larry Joseph Strickland, DUI, guilty plea, \$50 and costs; General Grant Cook, DUI, not pros; Bulah Rice, DUI, mistrial; Clarence Thebo Robinette, DUI, guilty plea, \$50 and costs; Frank Cutshall, B & E, custody elsewhere; Joe Ross Chandler, BE&L, not guilty; Robert English, robbery, guilty, 20-24 years in prison; Jerry Roberts, robbery, not pros; Billy English, robbery, 5 years in youthful defendant's camp; L.H. Cutshall, motion,

continued to Avery County to be heard today (Thursday); Jerry Dale Hunter, assault on female, judgment, two year sentence, suspended for 5 years, \$1000 to defendant and costs; Carolyn Pressnell, murder, non-suited; George G. Richardson, DUI, guilty plea, \$50 and costs; Joe Ross Chandler, BE&L, not guilty; Jack Michael Brown, DUI, not guilty; Russell Douglas Staton, manslaughter, guilty plea, \$2500 and costs.

31 cases were continued. Court adjourned last Friday afternoon with Judge Sam Ervin III, presiding.

4 Hurt, One Critically In 2-Car Wreck Sat.

Four persons were injured, at least one of them critically, in a two-car collision on U.S. Highway 25 By-pass a mile northeast of here at 6:10 p. m. Saturday.

Trooper J. L. Hall said William Buckner, 51, of Weaverville, was critically injured when his vehicle, headed south on the highway, collided head-on with another vehicle operated by Miss Shelia Ann West, 18, of Marshall.

Hall said charges against Miss West, who was reportedly headed north and making a left turn into Plemmons Truck Stop on the highway at the time of the accident, were pending Buckner's condition at the hospital.

The injured were taken to Memorial Mission Hospital by the Madison County Rescue Squad. Both drivers were injured along with a passenger in each vehicle.

The others injured were Roy K. Pike, 31, of Rt. 3, Weaverville, a passenger in the Buckner vehicle; and Miss Helen C. West, 16, sister of Miss Shelia West.

Hall said Buckner and Pike were returning home from a deer hunting trip in the Rich Laurel section of Madison County when the West vehicle allegedly made a left turn in front of their car.

"The Crucible" At Mars Hill This Week-End

"The Crucible," Arthur Miller's stark drama of the Salem "witch trials," will be given here Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday by the theatre arts division of Mars Hill College.

The play deals with the emotional frenzy of people accusing and being accused of witchcraft. It is based on the 17th century Puritan "witch hunt" in Massachusetts when, as during the Spanish Inquisition, non-conformers were persecuted as heretics.

Director C. Robert Jones noted that Miller wrote "The Crucible" in 1952 in reaction to the Communist "witch hunts" led by Joseph McCarthy. "We still live in an era of 'witch hunts,'" Jones said. But the central issue of the play, he said, is not the trials but man's struggle for honor. "The hero, John Proctor, is everyman who takes a position and will not be intimidated."

Proctor is played by Brock Henry, a senior religion major from Martinsville, Va. Other principal characters are Proctor's wife, Elizabeth, in which Janet Whisnant of Asheville and Becky Compton of Greenville, S. C., are double casted, and Abigail Williams, the leader of the teenaged girls who "cry-out" witches, played by Joy McManus of Granite Falls.

Performances of "The Crucible" will start at 8 p. m. in the Owen Building theater and are open to the public without charge.

Horticulture 3rd Place Won By Cutshall

Vicky Taylor of Rt. 3, Robbinsville, a 17-year-old Graham County 4-H Club member, was named Monday night as top winner of the 1972 Western North Carolina Horticultural Crops Contest.

She received the \$100 first prize for her trellised cucumber project.

Announcement of the winners of the annual contest among area 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America members was made at a meeting of the Horticultural Crops Commission of the Asheville Agricultural Development Council in Bailey's Cafeteria, Westgate.

Awards totaling \$225 were presented by Robert Hyatt, Buncombe extension agent and chairman of the contest committee.

Steve Cutshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Cutshall, of Riddle Farm Road near Marshall, won third place in the contest. Steve is an active member of the 4-H Club.

Train Strikes Fallen Car; Driver Uninjured

A car went off U.S. 25 down a straight drop onto the Southern Railway tracks near here Sunday and a westbound freight train ground it to bits, but the driver escaped before the train hit.

Sheriff Ponder said Rickey Wesley, 18, of Rt. 6, Marshall, was driving west on U.S. 25 north of the by-pass when apparently a tire blew throwing the car out of control. It hurtled over the edge of the road, down a 25-foot in front of a train heading west, he said.

The youth was able to get out of the car and off the tracks before the train hit his car, the sheriff said. He suffered only a scratch on the forehead in the mishap.

Ponder quoted the train crew, engineer Charles Black of Knoxville, Tenn., and conductor R. E. Groves of Knoxville as saying they saw

the car about six car lengths away, and the engineer put on the brakes, but the train went about six car lengths over the car, grinding it up, before the train could be stopped.

AT HOT SPRINGS

Mars Hill began pulling away in the third quarter and went on to capture a 55-21 victory over Hot Springs in the boys game while the Mars Hill girls won, 55-21, in the Appalachian 1-A Conference Friday night at Hot Springs.

David Price passed the Mars Hill boys with 18 points while Marvin Haggins added 19 for Hot Springs. Janet Henderson

passed the Mars Hill girls by victory with 18 points as Tracy Ponder added 19 points for Hot Springs. Janet Henderson

Red Heads Play Here Tuesday

Moore's All American Red Heads, world champion girls professional basketball team who play by men's rules, will appear in the Marshall gymnasium next Tuesday night, Dec. 12, it was announced here this week. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 o'clock.

Campbell To Speak Tonight At Mars Hill

The Rev. Will D. Campbell will give an informal presentation on "Social Change in the South" at 7 p. m. Thursday in the downstairs lounge of Chambers Gymnasium here at Mars Hill College.

The Rev. Campbell, 47, was called by "Newsweek" magazine the "South's most talked about Baptist preacher" next to Billy Graham, and is director of the Tennessee-based Committee of Southern Churchmen. The Committee consists of some 100 ministers and laymen who believe that "Christians must bear witness to God's faith in man by attempting to reconcile enemies."

A self-proclaimed "red-neck," the Rev. Campbell is noted for his work with the disaffected whites and for his friendships with Klu Klux Klan officials such as J. R. R. Jones, Grand Dragon of North Carolina.

He is the son of Mississippi farmers and was ordained as a Southern Baptist preacher when he was 18-years-old. He held a pastorate in Mississippi and was chaplain at the University of Mississippi before becoming the Southern representative of the National Council of Churches' commission on religion and race in 1964.

Salem topped Marshall 63-56 in boys basketball action Friday night, but the Marshall girls managed a 36-30 victory in the preliminary game at Marshall.

Walter Tenney pumped in 18 points and Randy Gant added 17 to pace the Salem boys in the tight affair. James Briggs and Carlton Freeman each had 11 for Marshall which trailed by only two points at halftime.



ONLY 18 INNS LEFT