

Hot Springs Chamber Of Commerce Holds Meeting; Officers Are Elected

By "POP" STORY

The annual meeting of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce was held last Wednesday night at the Henderson Cafe. Approximately 30 members, wives and guests were present at the dinner meeting.

Bobby Ponder, president of the progressive organization, presided and commented about the history of the organization which was formulated on December 1, 1971. He stated that the group met semi-monthly and pointed out the accomplishments during the past year.

Ponder then introduced Bruce Phillips, principal of Hot Springs High School and a member of the Chamber. Phillips praised the people of Hot Springs, referring to them as "a special breed." He spoke of the countywide interest the organization was showing and how the members strived to help the entire area.

Mr. Phillips also cited the local people who were compelled to leave the county for steady employment and stated that "approximately 2,000 county residents were travelling out of the county every day to work."

"We are trying to alleviate this situation by encouraging industry to locate in the county," he said. He stated that the Chamber had been in contact with 10-15 industrialists during the past year. "We have almost had some large industries locate near or in Hot Springs but for one reason or another, we have failed to actually acquire a new industry," Phillips said.

He spoke of the loyalty of Hot Springs men and particularly commended Dean Ledford, who now resides in Haywood County, who travels more than 50 miles to regularly attend the Chamber of Commerce meetings. "Not only does he attend, but he continues to be active in its many projects," he said.

He praised the recently published Hot Springs brochures which were sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He also praised the recently published county brochures and spoke optimistically about the value of the brochures.

Owen Fish, ESEA official and former principal at Spring Creek and Laurel, was introduced. He stated that he was "pinch hitting" for Superintendent R. L. Edwards who could not attend.

He paid tribute to the progressive people of Madison County and stated that he deplored the "bad image" often given the county by the daily press and others. He stated that he was always proud to say he was a native of Madison County and spoke highly of the school system in the county and the outstanding progress which has been made with the future looking even brighter.

He told of the film now being planned which shows the "real Madison County" with its modern homes and conveniences, its progressive spirit and other outstanding assets of the county in addition to its beautiful scenery and natural resources.

Following the program, newly elected officers and directors were named, as follows:

President, David West; Vice-President, Harold Baker; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Frances Ramsey. Four new directors to serve for three years were also elected, as follows: Bill Whitten, Dr. Robin Blake, Bob Brady, and Fr. Jeff Burton.

The group was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ramsey and Terry Thomas who rendered several musical numbers.

The meeting was highly successful and it was announced that efforts are now underway to secure new members throughout the county. It was announced that there are at present some 92 paid members "but we want more," one member stated.

Those who attended were treated to a delicious meal with a choice of T-Bone steak, ham, or turkey and dressing with numerous vegetables and dessert.

Several commented following the dinner that Mrs. Vestie Norton, "Doug" Norton and the others who operate the cafe, really knew how to prepare delicious meals. This writer agrees.



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce are pictured above. Left to right, David West, President; Harold Baker, Vice-President; Miss Frances Ramsey, Secretary-Treasurer.



BOBBY PONDER, left, outgoing president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, is shown congratulating David West, new president of the organization.



SEVERAL OF THE DIRECTORS, officers and members of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce are pictured above following the meeting at the Henderson Cafe last Wednesday night.

Ponder Named Representative Messer Principal At Laurel School Asks Public Opinions



VERNON PONDER, of Mars Hill, former principal at Ebbs Chapel, has been named principal of the Laurel School. Ponder succeeds the late Ray Tweed who was killed in an automobile accident on December 11.

Lewis Ammons, who was a member of the Marshall High School faculty, was named principal at Ebbs Chapel, succeeding Ponder and Ricky Thomson, of Marshall, has replaced Ammons as a teacher in the Marshall school.

Sales Tax

The Department of Revenue, Raleigh, has released the following figures for the collections of the 1 per cent sales and use tax during December, 1972, from Madison County: \$2,122.86.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Representative Ernest B. Messer, one of the two representatives in the N. C. House from the 44th House District, asks the people of this District their opinions on several important decisions which are before the House. If you wish to express your opinions, you may contact Rep. Messer as follows: Rep. Ernest Messer, Legislative Building, P. O. Box 7251, Raleigh, N. C. 27611. Office No. 2302, telephone 919-829-5609.

The questions follow: A bill has been introduced to repeal the Presidential Preference Primary. What is your recommendation?

There is much interest in moving the Primary election date from May to September or October. Should we do this?

Stern Seeks GOP Office

Dr. Larry Stern, professor of political science at Mars Hill College and 11th District Young Republican chairman, has announced as a candidate for treasurer of the N. C. Federation of Young Republicans, to be chosen at the April convention in Raleigh.

Stern was an alternate delegate to the National Republican Convention in Miami, and has been active in Republican politics for many years.

The law requiring primary elections in North Carolina to be held on Saturday has expired, and, unless we change the law, the next primary election will be on a Tuesday. What is your recommendation?

The law which permitted the use of absentee ballots in last year's primaries has expired. Should we reinstate the use of absentee ballots for primary elections?

Also, as you know, excessive spending in political campaigns is being severely criticized. Should we limit campaign spending?

Rouse To Speak At Young GOP Meeting Wed.

Frank Rouse, State Republican chairman, will be the featured speaker at a dinner meeting of the Madison County Young Republican Club at the Wolf Laurel Restaurant on Wednesday, Jan. 31. The affair will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Officials of the club emphasized that everyone is invited, regardless of political affiliation and that young people are especially invited.

There will also be musical entertainment, it was announced. Out of plates will be \$3 each.

All-State Band Clinic In Mars Hill Fri., Sat.

The Mars Hill College music department, will host over 200 area high school students for the annual western All-State Band Clinic Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27.

Serving on the clinic's faculty will be Miller Sigmon of Morganton, saxophonist with the U. S. Marine Band in Washington, Dr. Paul Noble of Shenandoah Music Conservatory, Winchester, Va., and Boyd McKeown, band director in Marietta, Ga. Noble will work with and direct the clinic's concert band; and McKeown, the workshop band. Both bands will give a joint concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in Moore Auditorium.

Sigmon will conduct a special saxophone clinic that Saturday morning and will solo with the Mars Hill College concert band during a public performance at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, in Moore. He will be featured in the number, "Introduction and Samba" by Maurice Whitley.

Sigmon received bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Michigan, where he was a teaching fellow and member of the symphonic band. He has taught also at the University of Toledo, Ohio.

Applications For Marshall Housing Being Accepted

C. N. Willis, executive director of the Marshall Housing Authority, stated this week that formal applications are now being taken for leasing low rent houses in the Marshall Housing Authority Office located on Walnut Creek Road adjacent to the J. B. Tweed residence. Office hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Willis stated that it is expected that the units will be ready for occupancy about the first of April.

Willis stated that it was thought originally that the units would have already been completed but for numerous reasons there has been a lengthy delay.

Bond Sales

Sales of Series E and H Savings Bonds in Madison County for November were \$17,849. January-November sales totaled \$137,498. This represents 100.2 percent of Madison County's goal of \$136,117.

Billy Graham Film Coming To Asheville

The new Billy Graham film, "Time To Run," which previewers say is really something special, will be shown in Asheville on February 2-8.

Ralph Dover has secured a supply of tickets which are available to anyone in the community for \$1.50 each. The ticket may be used any day or evening during that period. If purchased at the theater it will cost \$2 each.

It is a picture which you will enjoy and like other films put out by the Billy Graham organization has a heart touching appeal as well.

It is a story of family life. The father, a scientist and the head of a nuclear powered electric plant and the son, a typical college boy with all the problems of the generation gap.

"Don't miss it," says Dr. Arthur F. Williams, pastor of the Marshall Presbyterian Church.



GATHERED AROUND the piano for a song fest at the Thaida Roberts foster home in Mars Hill are, from left, Linda Gail, the only child in the home at present; Linda, who lived with Mrs. Roberts seven years; and the foster mother.

Mars Hill Foster Mother Rears 7 Girls In 7 Years

Quiet, reflective. Not given to adjectives, but obviously proud of "her girls."

Such might describe the demeanor of Mrs. Elwood (Thaida) Roberts of Mars Hill, who for the past eight years has been a foster mother. The Roberts home was licensed to serve foster children for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. in 1963.

Since Mr. Robert's death

three years later, Mrs. Roberts has faced innumerable challenges in rearing the seven girls who have come into her home. But she has learned to meet each experience with patience and love.

A Mars Hill native, Mrs. Roberts earned a degree from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., in 1952. That same year she began a teaching career at Mars Hill Elementary School that

continued until retirement in 1969.

The Roberts were both widowers, each having two children prior to their marriage in 1963. The couple expressed interest in becoming foster parents in the fall, 1963. They were referred to the Baptist Children's Homes through a county department of social services.

A year later, after their home had been licensed, the couple accepted a Kennedy

Home girl who lacked her senior year in high school. Mrs. Roberts still maintains contact with the girl, as she does several of the girls who have lived in the home.

Linda, born on a Cherokee Indian Reservation, came next. She lived with the family seven years longer than anyone else and is now attending business school in Asheville under the BCH's advanced education program.

In 1966 another Cherokee girl came to live in the home and remained four years until she was transferred to group care at Mills Home in Thomasville. Two sisters were placed with Mrs. Roberts in the early 1970's and lived there two years. Another girl stayed a month before being transferred to group care at Mills Home.

Although Mrs. Roberts' home is licensed to care for three children aged four to 18, Linda Gail of Hendersonville is currently the only child living there. The two have established a close relationship and Linda Gail is doing well in school.

Throughout the years, the Roberts have tried to offer their girls many cultural advantages. There has been an abundance of music, recitals, concerts, and shows to attend. Mr. Roberts was for many years on the inside faculty at Mars Hill College.

The girls were all taught to cook, sew, and clean house. While Mrs. Roberts taught school, she also headed a square dance group and the foster children were included in these trips and jamborees. The family has belonged to Mars Hill First Baptist Church for many years and Mr. Roberts, before his death, was active in the church choral program.

Mrs. Roberts says she has tried to instill three rules in her girls. Although she always wants them to feel like they have a home, the lady expects the girls to feel a responsibility to work, to be loyal to their beliefs, and to be considerate of others.

Calling foster motherhood the climax of my life," Mrs. Roberts said, "it has been the most important thing in my life since my own children left home. I am very fond of teenagers and I don't find them to be too difficult if I give them the love and attention they want."

"I try to love them like they should have been loved in the first place," the foster mother said simply.

And her "new" daughter piped up, "I feel I'm really wanted here."

That is the general impression one has of Mrs. Roberts and her girls.

Burlington's Hot Springs Employees Honored For Perfect Attendance

Twenty-one Burlington Worsteds employees at the Hot Springs Plant have been honored for their records of perfect attendance.

Plant Manager, Truman Melton and Supervisors presented certificates noting the period of perfect attendance to each employee during ceremonies at the plant Monday.

Melton stated "Our employees at Hot Springs are

outstanding, and these 21 Burlington people have established for themselves an enviable record of unbroken attendance. Their perfect attendance of up to 14 years indicates a genuine interest in doing a good job for the company and themselves. We appreciate each of our 150 employees and are particularly pleased to honor these 21 for their attendance records."

Honored for 14 years of perfect attendance was Joe "Luke" Moore and for 11 years, Jerry Ramsey, both employed in the Spinning Department. Two received four-year attendance awards: Jimmy Lawson, Winding, and Willard Norton, Shop. Four received three-year awards: Max Osteen, Billy Ellison, Top Preparation Department, Hugh Rathbone, Pindrafting and Roving Department, and Rosa Garrett, Spinning; Two

received two-year awards: Pansy Roberts, Spinning and Claude Sawyer, Warehouse Supply, and cited for one year perfect attendance were Anne Allison, Don Holt, Ruby Church, Charles Thomas and Aron Dixon, Pindrafting and Roving Department, Jean Allison, Buena Frisbee, and John McPeters, Spinning Department, Bernice Willis, Winding, Delbert Reec, Shop and Frances Strom, Lab.



JOE "LUKE" MOORE with 14 years, Jerry Ramsey with 11 years perfect attendance were presented their certificates by Truman Melton, Plant Manager, John Clawson, Department Head, and Jim Prevette Supervisor. Left to right: Melton, Prevette, Ramsey, Moore Clawson.



SECOND SHIFT: Back Row left to right, Jimmy Lawson, 4 years, Delbert Reec, 1 year, Billy Ellison, 3 years, Don Holt, 1 year. Front Row left to right Frances Strom, 1 year, Susa Frisbee, 1 year, Jean Allison, 1 year, and Annie Allison, 1 year.



FIRST SHIFT left to right: Rosa Garrett, 3 years, Bernice Willis, 1 year, Pansy Roberts, 2 years, Max Osteen, 3 years, Charles Thomas, 1 year, Claude Sawyer, 2 years, Hugh Rathbone, 3 years, Willard Norton, 4 years, and Aron Dixon, 1 year.



THIRD SHIFT: John McPeters, left, was presented his certificate by his Supervisor George Goble.