

# THE NEWS - RECORD

## Water, Sewerage Bond Referendum For Marshall To Be Held Tuesday

Marshall citizens will have the opportunity next Tuesday to approve or reject two major referendums—water and sewerage improvement and enlargement systems for the town. The referendum or voting will be held at the City Hall on Main Street between 6:30 a. m. and 6:30 p. m. All citizens are urged to vote.

Following is a capsule account of action taken leading to the referendum.

In February 1971 Mayor Lorado Ponder, Roy Wild, and a number of other interested citizens in desperation, met in the Town Hall with a consultant engineering firm. The purpose of this meeting was to investigate the possibility of obtaining funds for improvements to the Marshall water and sewer system.

At the time of this meeting, the town was in an almost impossible position. The water system was highly inadequate of providing fire protection to the point that at times when a fire hydrant was turned on a

mere trickle of water came out. At times, especially during the spring, the water was not potable and when used in washing machines the clothes were stained. These and other undesirable conditions had reached the point that the Town of Marshall was under orders from the North Carolina State Board of Health to take measures to correct these problems or face the possibility of having the water system condemned for human use.

Adding to the pains of water system trouble was still another problem of undersized sewer lines and a treatment plant that did not meet the standards of modern day requirements. Undersized sewer lines were flooding

basements, bad pipe joints were permitting infiltration, internal root growths were causing constant line stoppage, thus causing much inconvenience to the residents, and were overflowing and polluting adjacent streams and waterways. Areas of recent development had no sewer facilities and some of the older areas of town were still using massive community septic tanks with flows going directly into the river. The State Health Authorities, being aware of these conditions, were being insistent that the town do something to alleviate these conditions.

Aside from the water and sewer problems, the most disturbing factor was that the

town had absolutely no money to pay for these improvements and the council had been advised that they could not obtain any federal grants.

Following three meetings and much consultation, the Town Council voted to try to obtain Federal Aid for water and sewer construction, and after much consideration employed Wilbur Smith and Associates of Columbia, South Carolina.

Within a few weeks the consultants had prepared preliminary plans and reports covering existing conditions and outlining plainimetrically the many needs. These preliminary plans were reviewed, and after some revisions by council, recommendations were made. The report and plans were approved and the engineers were instructed to apply for Federal Grants through the Economic Development Authority, the Appalachian Redevelopment Commission, and the Farmers Home Administration.

Following many local meetings and meetings in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Asheville, a grant from EDA and a long term, low interest grant from FHA looked favorable. Due to the cooperation of the local FHA office, a loan offer was made to the town in the amount of \$265,000. Upon receiving an abrupt no from ARC, the skies clouded until notification came from EDA in December 1971 stating that Marshall would be given a preliminary hearing in Atlanta in January 1972. This hearing proved very promising and through persistent trips to Raleigh and Atlanta by the Town Council and engineers, the word finally came through that Marshall would receive a \$350,400 grant.

During the long tedious period of sheets and sheets of form work and red tape, the one bright spot was the passing of Clean Water Bill by the people of North Carolina. Immediately upon passage of this bill, application was made for a state grant of \$41,500.00 which, after the usual red tape, was obtained.

It has indeed been a long road and a cloudy day, but at last due to the extended efforts of the Town Council, the town received grant offers of \$350,400.00 from EDA, and \$41,500.00 from the State of North Carolina.

Grants from EDA and North Carolina State and the FHA loan will be used for improvements to the existing water distribution system, the water supply facilities, and the sewage system.

Areas with inadequate water supply will be able to receive increased pressure, more supply and probably the utmost importance will be the adequate continued fire protection flows. All major lines will be looped such that should there be an interruption of service in one line, it can be isolated and the balance of the town will still have water service.

A complete water treatment plant will be constructed at the existing water impoundment lake such that regardless of the quality of the water leaving the lake, it will be treated and have a year round palatable taste, odor and color. Additional supply will be provided to take care of any growth or demand placed on the system. The present 1,800,000 gallon concrete storage tanks will be left in service, however it will be completely covered to maintain clean, sanitary conditions.

Several areas within the city are now without any sewage service while others have inadequate facilities. A number of outlying areas, now without sewage, will be

provided with sewer lines and pumping stations. This includes Rollins, Redmon Road and Roberts Hill Road. Several main sewage truck lines, now 4" and 6" lines, will be replaced or paralleled with new lines which will prevent stoppages and provide line capacities for satisfactory service and future growth within the area.

Present fire hydrants along Main Street will be replaced by new hydrants and the old hydrants will be installed in residential areas.

For a number of years the population of Marshall has decreased; many residents are traveling to distant towns for employment, and the young adults cannot find employment locally, therefore they are leaving home to take jobs elsewhere. This is not true just for Marshall, but also for other smaller towns north-west of Asheville. In a report from Governor Scott's office some years back, the Governor pointed out that the solution is to provide adequate sanitary facilities and induce industry into the area.

Industrial areas have been established along the by-pass and the present funding will provide the needed sanitary facilities for these areas.

A new school is under construction and a shopping center already exists at the industrial area, with Deringer

Manufacturing Company preparing to start construction immediately. The new plant will occupy approximately 22,000 square feet and will employ 225 people, black, white, male and female. With the proposed sanitary facilities the water bill revenue from this one industry will go a long way toward paying off the FHA loan. Additional industries are interested and others can now be invited in with the new facilities capable of handling their water and sewer needs.

**COUNTY PROJECT**  
It was explained that the new water project from the Industrial site to the county landfill on Tillery Branch is a project of Madison County and is being financed by the county.



PICTURED ABOVE ARE MEMBERS of the Madison County Board of Elections who were sworn in at Noon Monday in the Clerk of Court's office in the courthouse. Left to right, Oscar McDevitt (Democratic member); Joe L. Morgan, (Republican); and Perry Willis, (Republican). Mr. Willis was elected Chairman of the Board and Mr. Morgan, secretary.

## Board Of Election Members Take Oaths

Members of the Madison County Board of Elections were sworn in at noon Monday in the Clerk of Superior Court's office here. Judson Edwards, clerk, administered the oaths individually to Joe L. Morgan, Republican; Perry Willis, Republican; and Oscar McDevitt, Democrat. Miss Sharon Ray remains as Executive Secretary to the board.

Several persons were present for the ceremony, including William P. Powell, county Republican Chairman. It was rather an historic occasion that saw two Republicans and one Democrat take the oaths instead of two Democrats and one Republican which has been the case for many years. Immediately following the swearing in ceremony the

newly constituted board met and elected Mr. Willis as chairman; Mr. Morgan as secretary.  
Mr. Willis, of Route 3, Mars Hill, resides in the Upper Laurel community. He is serving his second term on the board. He is a member of the executive committee of the French Broad Baptist Association and a member of

the General Board of the Baptist State Convention.  
Mr. Morgan, of Route 2, Marshall, is an educator and writer; former superintendent of Peek's Chapel Baptist Church and was Clerk of the French Broad Baptist Association from 1965-1969.  
Mr. McDevitt, of Marshall, is a former deacon in the Enon Baptist Church and is at present a member of the Marshall Baptist Church. A graduate of Marshall high school, Mr. McDevitt has served as a member of the Madison County Election Board for the past eight years.  
**SMOOTH TRANSITION**  
Before the meeting of the board adjourned, a resolution was unanimously passed thanking the former board for the smooth transition of duties to the present board.

## Art Sale And Exhibition At Mars Hill

MARS HILL — An exhibition and sale of original graphic art by contemporary and old masters will be held at Mars Hill College beginning March 19. The works will be on view from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the lounge of Wren College Union.

Arranged by Ferdinand Roten Galleries of Baltimore, the exhibit will include over 1,000 original etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts by artists such as Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dali, Renoir, and many others including contemporary American, European, and Japanese printmakers.

A representative of the Roten Galleries will be present to answer any questions regarding graphic art and printmaking. He will also arrange for the sale of any of the prints. Prices will start at \$5 with the majority of the works priced under \$100.

The Roten Galleries, established in 1932, has one of the largest collections of graphic art in the country. Operating its main gallery in Baltimore, the firm specializes in arranging exhibition sales of original graphic art at colleges, museums, and art centers throughout the country.

## Man Held In Shooting Incident

Mrs. Audrey Hensley, 26, of Marshall was reported in satisfactory condition at Memorial Mission Hospital, the victim of a shooting incident in the Paint Forks section about 8:30 p. m. Saturday, according to Sheriff E. Y. Ponder.

## Tomato Production To Be Aired Here March 23

Way Abel, owner and operator of Pigeon Valley Tomato Company, formerly the Mato Packing Co., located near the Marshall bypass, announced this week that an

important meeting would be held at the local shed on Saturday, March 23. Mr. Abel stated that the meeting would begin at 10 a. m. and he cordially invites all farmers to attend.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to give Mr. Abel an opportunity to meet many of the Madison County farmers and particularly the tomato producers.

He said he is desiring to help the farmers in every way possible in their tomato production. He is anxious to help farmers secure stakes or sticks which are suitable for the Walter's variety which can be grown with only one-third the labor it takes to produce the Mampal variety. He also welcomes those who prefer the Mampal variety.

He stated that he will also offer prizes on A-Grade and tonnage to members of the F. F. A. and 4-H Clubs in the county. He added that all growers can enter the "4-acre Club for high tonnage."

Orders for plants will be accepted at the meeting and Mr. Abel stated that the Marshall shed will work all local people and will train all local packers.

"I am anxious to meet the local farmers and make plans for the tomato output this season," Mr. Abel said.

## Citizens Bank Plans Merger With Wachovia

Officials of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. and Citizens Bank of Marshall have agreed in principle to merge the two banks, according to a joint announcement Wednesday of last week by John F. Watlington Jr., president of Wachovia, and Charles E. Mashburn, chairman of the board of Citizens Bank.

Mashburn said shareholders of the two banks will vote on the proposal at a later date. The merger also is subject to approval by appropriate

government regulatory agencies.  
Watlington said, "We are quite pleased with the prospect of joining Citizens Bank, and we believe that by combining our resources we can make significant and lasting contributions toward economic growth and progress in the Madison County area."

Mashburn said the decision to merge with Wachovia followed long and careful

consideration of the benefits to the bank's customers and shareholders.  
"In this proposed merger, Citizens Bank would be joining one of the leading innovators in the banking industry and bringing to our region a full line of banking services and marketing techniques," he said. "With these additions and the strengthening of our staff, we are confident that we can improve the level of services to all our customers."

Citizens Bank was chartered in 1910. It has offices in Mars Hill and Hot Springs in addition to Marshall. Citizens Bank, of which Frank T. Moore is president, has deposits of \$14.7 million.

Under terms of the proposed merger, each share of stock in Citizens Bank would be exchanged for eight shares of common stock of The Wachovia Corp. A total of 10,000 shares of Citizens Bank is outstanding.



J. C. WALLIN, of Hot Springs, has been elected principal of the new consolidated high school at Marshall. He is currently a teacher and assistant principal of Marshall high school. He is also a former principal at Hot Springs and has coached basketball and baseball at Marshall and Mars Hill.

## 4-County Consortium Eyed For U.S. Manpower Funds

**By BILLY PRITCHARD  
Citizen Staff Writer**  
A four-county consortium approach to spending more than \$15 million annually in federal manpower funds beginning July 1 is almost assured, Chairman R. Curtis Ratcliff of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners indicated Wednesday.

A federal manpower bill signed into law last December made Buncombe eligible to become the prime sponsor for federally funded employment programs previously controlled at the federal level. Under the bill's guidelines, manpower grants previously

funded through various community action groups, such as Neighborhood Youth Corps and Mountain Manpower, will be administered (and monitored) by the chief elected officials in counties of over 100,000 such as Buncombe, or the states.

An alternative approach for the smaller counties of under 100,000 population, such as Henderson, Transylvania and Madison which with Buncombe comprise Region B, is to form a consortium under the prime sponsor (Buncombe in this case) and bypass the state's control.  
Ratcliff said in an interview Wednesday that he had already received letters endorsing the consortium approach from Transylvania and Madison County officials and had been assured of Henderson County's approval in talks with elected officials there.

The manpower bills provide incentive bonuses for the formation of consortiums because of the saving in administrative costs. Officials have said the bonuses can be as high as 10 per cent of the funds previously channeled through local agencies by the federal

government under the previous system.

For example, a \$1.5 million grant could be increased to as much as \$1.8 million under the consortium approach.

"We are certainly happy to work with other counties on this if it means a financial benefit for them," Ratcliff said.

Ratcliff said the manpower funding is the "first step beyond revenue sharing, itself, in breaking down the federal bureaucracy."

Buncombe has already been granted \$15,000 from the U. S. Department of Labor to allow the county, as prime sponsor, to set up a manpower program here.

The \$15,000 grant provides for the initial employment for six months of two persons — a man power director and a secretary — who will research employment needs in this area, consider whether continued, new or modified manpower programs be initiated and ease the transition to the local level of control.

In the same period, Buncombe officials will meet a

## Jack Ramsey At Bowman Funeral Home



**JACK S. RAMSEY**  
Jack S. Ramsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ramsey, of Marshall, is now associated with Bowman Funeral Home, here, as Embalmer and Funeral Director.

Mr. Ramsey is a graduate of Marshall High School and attended Mars Hill College and Montreat - Anderson College. He graduated in 1959 from the American Academy of Funeral Service, New York City and served his apprenticeship at Morris-Hendon Funeral Home, Asheville, in 1966.

Mr. Ramsey served in the U. S. Army, 1959-1962, at Ft. Knox, Ky., Ft. Lee, Va., and Ft. Campbell, Ky. He is married to the former Miss Catherine Taylor, of Lynchburg, Va.

He was employed at Bowman's Funeral Home, Morganton, before returning to Marshall. He is a member of the Marshall Baptist Church and a member of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey are residing on Hickory Hill Road, here.

## Fisher Joins Firm



**J. FRANK FISHER**  
Tom McCurry, president of Tom McCurry Realty Inc., has announced that J. Frank Fisher is now associated with the firm as sales representative. Fisher, a native of Marshall,

attended Walnut High School, Mars Hill College and Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He has been in banking and real estate activities since 1954, having worked at Citizens Bank, Marshall; Federal Land Bank of Columbia, Asheville; and Veterans Administration appraiser in Buncombe County.

He has operated a farm and owns Fisher Monument Company in Asheville. He resides at 68 Edwin Place with his wife, Ruth and a son, Dale. McCurry said Fisher would have office adjacent to the firm's main office.

## Jaycee Chapter For Marshall Discussed

An initial meeting was held here Wednesday when members of the Asheville Junior Chamber of Commerce hosted several local men at a dinner meeting in the interest of organizing a Jaycee Chapter here.  
If you are between the ages

of 18 and 35, and interested in this community and desire to become a charter member, contact Lee Roy Griffin, Marshall.

Another meeting will be held in the near future when the Chapter will be officially organized.