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Ledford Refutes GOP Resolution Charges

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Writer

MARS HILL. — The chairman of the Democratic Madison County Board of Commissioners refuted charges of secrecy and misappropriation of funds brought Saturday of the county's Republican executive committee.

"I can't understand what the problem is," said James

T. Ledford, the commission's chairman, in response to the resolution calling for "truthfulness, openness and honesty" in government and listing a number of questions.

Ledford answered each one of the questions and said that no one had contacted him requesting the information, much of which he said had already been published in the local newspaper or put on in

public record at the Courthouse.

A list of the information called for by the resolution and the answers given by Ledford follows:

1) Disclosure of financial conditions in the county by elected officials and the publication of an audit in the local paper. Answer: The yearly audit is in process of being prepared, as usual, and will be published in the

Marshall Record as soon as completed.

2) Account of the funds accrued to the county by way of the ambulance service. Answer: An audit report has been filed with the county solicitor, a Republican. Any incoming money becomes part of the "general fund."

3) An explanation of Madison County's need for four ambulances. (The county only had two when Ledford assumed office in December, 1972). Answer: Madison has five ambulances, which are sometimes not enough, according to Ledford.

Using revenue sharing monies, Ledford said he bought one and paid off the lease on the two the county had been renting. One was wrecked, and he bought one to replace it. It was subsequently repaired through the insurance company bringing the total to four.

The fifth was acquired when an old ambulance was donated to the county and then traded for a newer, usable model.

4) Questions concerning Ledford's salary. Answer: Ledford said he worked full time as a member of the board chairman for several months.

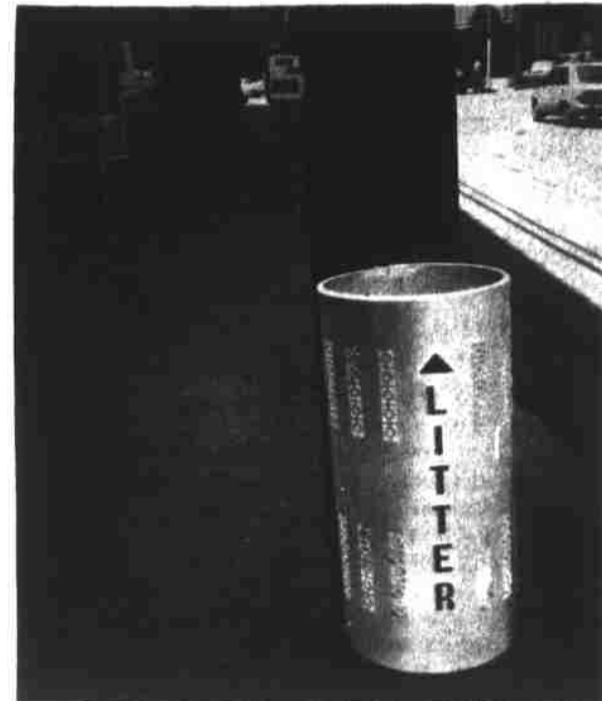
The other two commissioners voted to pay him for his time, at a rate of \$500 a month plus \$100 to cover expenses.

5) Source of funds for the county's new dumpsters. Answer: Revenue sharing funds.

In answer to charges that the commissioners meetings are closed, Ledford said they are open, have always been, but that space to meet in the Courthouse has been a problem. He said they sometimes meet in the small jury room off the courtroom or in the courtroom itself. He said the public has attended the meetings on several occasions.



ATTRACTIVE LITTER CONTAINERS, such as pictured above, have been installed in several locations on Main Street here. The project was



sponsored by the Marshall Garden Club. The public is urged to use these metal containers in an effort to keep litter off the sidewalks and streets.

Examples Of Secrecy And Lack Of Openness

1. The Madison County Republican Executive Committee Chairman had asked to use the courtroom for a business meeting at 2 p. m. on July 27, 1974. Upon arriving at the courthouse at the appointed hour, it was discovered that same was not open nor available. Thus, the use of the building was denied to the Republican Party. Upon checking at the home of the one who was in possession of the key to the courthouse, said individual was not to be found. The Committee was forced after an hour's delay to meet in another location.

2. A Board of Education member resigned without the public knowing about it via any news media. Her successor was secretly approved and appointed to the board without any public announcement of same. This was an occurrence of months ago but to this day there has been no publicity whatsoever relative to the new member of the board. This is a public and elective office and the people have a right to know who constitutes the membership of the board. What is behind this clandestine action? Upon being contacted by a school board candidate, regarding the new member, of the board, it was not acknowledged that the new member was actually on the board! Yet it is a fact that one Dedrick Cody is on the board as a replacement to

Mrs. Bobby Jean Rice. This should not be secret.

3. The latter day salary of the incumbent Chairman of the present Board of County Commissioners has never been published or announced in a paper of general county circulation. It was subsequently announced in a large daily after the GOP "smoked" him out on it. Why this assumption of a salary that has never been allotted before by any county commissioners of a small county (16,003, 1970 decennial census) such as Madison? What has he done so important to make the chairmanship fulltime? What possible justification can be given for a \$7,300 salary to the already burdened taxpayers? Was this budgeted in the 1972-1973. If not, he has raised his own salary!

4. Dr. Ed L. Niles was appointed to the Madison County Social Services Board by the state of North Carolina. Not only was there no mention of this in the press of the county but, even more serious, was the fact that Dr. Niles was not contacted or encouraged by the Madison County Board of Social Services to attend any meeting after his appointment. He finally decided that he had better take definitive action, and demanded to know what was going on regarding the board's silence and failure to treat him as a duly appointed member of this agency.

Finally he had the lines of communications open after having to threaten to take the matter to the proper authorities! His frustration could have been avoided by openness, fair play and an attitude of welcome on the part of the members of the board.

WILLIAM P. POWELL,
Chairman,
Madison County
GOP Executive
COMMITTEE

Madison Board Of Education Starts Lawsuit

On Monday, July 29, at 8 p.m., the Madison County Board of Education met jointly with the Madison County Board of Commissioners in the Madison County Courthouse at a special called meeting.

Mr. J.C. Wallin, Jr., Principal of Madison High School, and his Assistant Principal, Bruce Phillips, are confronted with transporting the Madison County High School student to and from school over horse and buggy roads, totally inadequate, and roads which were supposed to have been rebuilt and replaced under solid and legal commitments made by the

previous Governor's Administration.

The Board of Education voted unanimously to bring suit against the Governor and the Department of Transportation to cover the cost of contract hauling which will be organized and instituted before school starts on August 19, 1974. The cost of the contract hauling will run into thousands of dollars and will continue costing until the Madison County thirty-five million dollar road program has been completed and the ribbons cut.

The roads deemed necessary were and still are: Primary Roads—N.C. 213,

Dairy Bar to Mars Hill; Mars Hill to Marshall By-Pass; Marshall By-Pass to N.C. 209 Spring Creek; U.S. 25-70 Weaverville to Marshall By-Pass; Marshall By-Pass to Walnut; Hot Springs to Tennessee State Line. Of course, the Madison County share of secondary road monies was to be used in building feeder roads into the above-mentioned main arteries.

We do not understand why the Department of Transportation is not building some secondary roads in Madison County. We realize that by Statute they cannot legally take the secondary road

money and spend it elsewhere, however, we further realize that the roads are badly needed now and should not be further postponed and delayed.

The Board of Education unanimously asked that their Chairman, Mr. William M. Roberts, and the two Chairmen of the two major political parties join in a nonpartisan effort to try and secure for Madison County the much needed and highly deserved road program above described.

Hope was expressed that Zeno H. Ponder, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee and Mr. William Powell, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, would both cooperate wholeheartedly and work for the best interests of Madison County.

administration.

But all of them, at a meeting with area members of the state Democratic Executive Committee in the Buncombe County Courthouse, disavowed allegiance with utility-companies and said they would fight for fair rates for consumers.

The full state executive committee will pick one of the eight, most likely, at a meeting in Raleigh Saturday to run for the remainder of Senate nominee Robert Morgan's term in the Nov. 5 election.

They drew lots and spoke in that order at a meeting conducted by Rep. Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall, 11th Congressional District Democratic chairman.

The candidates are Sen. McNeil Smith of Greensboro, Rep. Herbert L. Hyde of Asheville, Rep. C. Kitchin Josey of Scotland Neck, Rep. H.M. Michaux Jr. of Durham, Wake County District Atty. Barley Mitchell of Raleigh, Superior Court Judge Dennis J. Winner of Asheville, Superior Court Judge Charles Kivett of Greensboro and Rufus Edmisten of Boone, former aide to Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. of Morganton.

Following a five-minute talk by each candidate, Ramsey opened the meeting to questions by members of the

executive committee, of which some 15 were among the crowd in the court room.

Zeno Ponder of Marshall, a committee member from Madison County, raised the question of an agreement made by one governor or his highway commission and its legal effect on that administration's successor.

It is a question the next North Carolina attorney general may well have to deal with, since Madison County is threatening legal action for construction of a road Ponder said was promised. And the promise of a road to serve the school figured prominently into the passage of the school construction bond issue, he said.

Hyde said that in his opinion the highway commission does have the authority to make such a contract, and that as attorney general, he would try to make the state live up to its contract if a suit was filed by Madison County.

Winner said that as judge, his training is not to try to give "horse back" opinions on something he knows nothing about. But he said he feels that a delegation of authority from the attorney general would to the highway body would be required to make the contract binding.

Josey said that as attorney general he would find some

way in the law to make the government live up to the contract. Michaux expressed a similar sentiment, as did Edmisten and Smith.

But Mitchell, who served for three years with Morgan, called this "a terrible area of the law," and told Ponder he feels that such an agreement is not binding from one governor to another.

"I think this is an area for a consumer lawsuit," Mitchell said. He said the problem is probably more political than legal, and that a political approach might better produce the solution.

Kivett said he also feels that such an agreement by a governor with a school board would not be binding on the next governor.

Hyde emphasized that appropriations for such projects are general, and money is not specifically set aside for the construction of one road or another. And in that respect, an agreement such as the one Ponder asked about could be difficult to settle.

Gary Moffitt, an executive committee member from Buncombe County, asked the candidates to state how they have aligned themselves in the past with utility companies.

Continued On Page 2

Marshall Horse Show Winners Announced

The 8th annual Charity Horse Show at Marshall on July 29 was highly successful. The annual event is sponsored by the Marshall Lions Club.

CLASS	HORSE	RIDER	OWNER	ADDRESS
1. English Halter (2 yrs. & Under)	Golden Dawn	Shirley Grover	Sue	Arden
English Halter (Over 2 yrs.)	Browdie	Larry Keever	Thelma Davis	Pinegh Forest Asheville
2. Western Halter (2 yrs. & Under)	Five Penny Swain	Dobbie Baker	Sue	Asheville
Western Halter (Over 2 yrs.)	Arnolds Barb	Ronnie Ramsey	Green Acres Farm	Weaverville
3. Lead Line (6 yrs. and Under)	Five (9) Entries,	Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Fairview
Appaloosa Halter	Horn Splash	Howard Treadway	Sue	Asheville
4. Pleasure Ponies (50" & Under)	Benny Sensation	Linda Ryder	Sue	Asheville
5. English Pleasure (Open)	Benny Sensation	Linda Ryder	Sue	Asheville
6. English Pleasure (Open)	Benny Sensation	Linda Ryder	Sue	Asheville
7. Working Teams (Hales)	Betsy and Belle	Arthur Thompson	Ernest Boone	Marshall
Working Teams (Horses)	Hans and Lady	Raymond Caldwell	Sue	Marshall
8. Felleo Race	Busty	Ronnie Grover	Eddie Sexton	Asheville
Ladies Western Pleasure (17 yrs. & Over)	Jag's Jewelusha	Carolyn Brown	Sue	Skyland
10. Pupper Gola Race	Angel	Donald Anderson	Ivan Sam	Asheville
11. Western Pleasure (16 yrs. & Under)	Poco Chubby Turk	Lynn Boshan	Sue	Arden
12. Pleasure Backing (Open)	Red Man's Rocket	Gary Brown	Arnold Bryson	Marce Shoe
13. Musical Tires	Busty	David Groves	Eddie Sexton	Asheville
14. Gentlemen's Western Pleasure (17 yrs. and over)	John	Larry Wilson	Sue	Burnsville
15. Ladies Backing	"De Judge"	Amette Orr	Etton Valley Stables	Etton
16. Appaloosa Western Pleasure	Lucky Sundown	Johnny Nichols	John Rheinhardt	Waynesville
17. Buddy Pick Up	Doby's One Spot	Rick Boney	Hill Clark	Asheville
18. Saddle Backing	Murry's Bay Bay	Ronnie Ramsey	Sam Rupp	Marshall
19. Barrel Race	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
20. Fastest Horse Around Track	Angel	Ivan Sam	Sue	Asheville
21. Lead Line (6 yrs. & Under)	Fifteen (15) Entries, Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Asheville	Fairview
22. Western Halter (2 yrs. & Under)	Five Penny Swain	Dobbie Baker	Sue	Asheville
23. Western Halter (Over 2 yrs.)	Tardy # 2	Ken Treadway	Sue	Asheville
24. Appaloosa Halter	Horn Splash	Howard Treadway	Sue	Fairview
25. Walking Horse (2 yrs. old)	Shayne Path Finder	J.R. Honeycutt	Glenn Honeycutt	Asheville
26. New's Backing (17 yrs. & Over)	Robin Dan	Ted Chambers	Red Nelson	Waynesville
27. Ladies Western Pleasure (17 yrs. & Over)	Get Along Gody	Kay Treadway	Ken Treadway	Asheville
28. English Pleasure (Open)	State	Salon Sprinkle	The Tree Stables	Marshall
29. Pleasure Ponies	Benny Sens. Hcn	Ivada Ryder	Sue	Asheville
30. Western Pleasure (16 yrs. & Under)	Jag's Jewelusha	Carolyn Brown	Sue	Arden
31. Style Backing (Open)	Surprise Package	Ed Shelton	Sue	Waynesville
32. Gentlemen's Western Pleasure (17 yrs. and over)	John	Larry Wilson	Sue	Burnsville
33. Barrel Race	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
34. Javelin Backing	James Bear	James Bear	Sue	Waynesville
35. Musical Tires (13 yrs. & Under)	James Lowry H	Susan Orr	Sue	Asheville
36. Open Backing	Buddy Pick Up	Doby's One Spot	Rick Boney	Waynesville
37. Ladies Western Pleasure	Robin Dan	Ted Chambers	Red Nelson	Waynesville
38. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Get Along Gody	Kay Treadway	Ken Treadway	Asheville
39. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	State	Salon Sprinkle	The Tree Stables	Marshall
40. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Benny Sens. Hcn	Ivada Ryder	Sue	Asheville
41. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Jag's Jewelusha	Carolyn Brown	Sue	Arden
42. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Surprise Package	Ed Shelton	Sue	Waynesville
43. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	John	Larry Wilson	Sue	Burnsville
44. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	"De Judge"	Amette Orr	Etton Valley Stables	Etton
45. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Lucky Sundown	Johnny Nichols	John Rheinhardt	Waynesville
46. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Doby's One Spot	Rick Boney	Hill Clark	Asheville
47. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Murry's Bay Bay	Ronnie Ramsey	Sam Rupp	Marshall
48. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
49. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Angel	Ivan Sam	Sue	Asheville
50. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Fifteen (15) Entries, Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Asheville	Fairview
51. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Five Penny Swain	Dobbie Baker	Sue	Asheville
52. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Tardy # 2	Ken Treadway	Sue	Asheville
53. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Horn Splash	Howard Treadway	Sue	Fairview
54. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Shayne Path Finder	J.R. Honeycutt	Glenn Honeycutt	Asheville
55. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Robin Dan	Ted Chambers	Red Nelson	Waynesville
56. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Get Along Gody	Kay Treadway	Ken Treadway	Asheville
57. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	State	Salon Sprinkle	The Tree Stables	Marshall
58. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Benny Sens. Hcn	Ivada Ryder	Sue	Asheville
59. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Jag's Jewelusha	Carolyn Brown	Sue	Arden
60. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Surprise Package	Ed Shelton	Sue	Waynesville
61. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	John	Larry Wilson	Sue	Burnsville
62. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	"De Judge"	Amette Orr	Etton Valley Stables	Etton
63. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Lucky Sundown	Johnny Nichols	John Rheinhardt	Waynesville
64. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Doby's One Spot	Rick Boney	Hill Clark	Asheville
65. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Murry's Bay Bay	Ronnie Ramsey	Sam Rupp	Marshall
66. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
67. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Angel	Ivan Sam	Sue	Asheville
68. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Fifteen (15) Entries, Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Asheville	Fairview
69. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Five Penny Swain	Dobbie Baker	Sue	Asheville
70. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Tardy # 2	Ken Treadway	Sue	Asheville
71. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Horn Splash	Howard Treadway	Sue	Fairview
72. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Shayne Path Finder	J.R. Honeycutt	Glenn Honeycutt	Asheville
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74. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Get Along Gody	Kay Treadway	Ken Treadway	Asheville
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76. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Benny Sens. Hcn	Ivada Ryder	Sue	Asheville
77. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Jag's Jewelusha	Carolyn Brown	Sue	Arden
78. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Surprise Package	Ed Shelton	Sue	Waynesville
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80. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	"De Judge"	Amette Orr	Etton Valley Stables	Etton
81. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Lucky Sundown	Johnny Nichols	John Rheinhardt	Waynesville
82. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Doby's One Spot	Rick Boney	Hill Clark	Asheville
83. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Murry's Bay Bay	Ronnie Ramsey	Sam Rupp	Marshall
84. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
85. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Angel	Ivan Sam	Sue	Asheville
86. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Fifteen (15) Entries, Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Asheville	Fairview
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101. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Murry's Bay Bay	Ronnie Ramsey	Sam Rupp	Marshall
102. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	King Barnette	Kaye Treadway	Ernie Treadway	Asheville
103. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Angel	Ivan Sam	Sue	Asheville
104. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Fifteen (15) Entries, Elise Ribbon to All	Sue	Asheville	Fairview
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107. Ladies Western Pleasure's Competency	Horn Splash	Howard Treadway	Sue	Fairview
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