

THE NEWS - RECORD

Celebrate In Safety

The holidays should be a time to relax and enjoy family and friends. But it should also be a time to be on the lookout for fire hazards. Don't let your holiday season be ruined by tragedy.

The biggest year-round danger is careless smoking, which accounts for more than half of all fatal residential fires in this country. According to the Better Business Bureau urges that when you're entertaining for the holidays, you provide plenty of large, noncombustible ashtrays designed to prevent cigarettes from falling out. Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children. And when the party's over, check all rooms to be certain no cigarettes are burning anywhere.

Fireplaces
It may be part of your holiday tradition to sit around a cozy fire, but make sure you're doing it safely. If you use manufactured logs for the fire, be careful with them; they can't be handled like natural logs. Read the instructions on the wrapper carefully. To make sure they ignite properly, these logs, made of sawdust and wax, should not be unwrapped before use. And they shouldn't be added to a hot fire because they can cause a dangerous flare-up. Don't start a fire with more than one of these logs, because the heat could become too intense. Don't try to poke at one of these logs, because part of the wax and sawdust could stick to the poker and then drop to an unprotected rug or floor. When you burn natural logs, use logs that fit the size of your fireplace, but don't overload it. Be careful when moving a burning log because if it breaks up, embers and sparks may scatter. Don't burn gift wrappings or evergreen branches in the fireplace. They may cause the fire to flare up faster than you expect, and scraps of burning paper may be carried up the chimney and onto the roof or yard. No matter what type of logs you burn, remember to open the flue first and to use a firescreen.

Trees and Lights
If you buy a Christmas tree, be sure it's fresh. Needles should be hard to pull off. The trunk butt should be sticky with resin and when the trunk is bounced on the ground, there should not be a shower of falling needles. Erect the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. And keep the stand filled with water - a tree needs a surprising amount of moisture to avoid drying out. When the needles become brittle and start to fall off, the tree becomes a serious fire hazard and it's time to take it down. You might want to buy a live tree and then plant it outside after Christmas. To do this successfully, don't keep the tree in a heated room more than three days, and don't try to plant it while the ground is frozen. Check with a nursery for more advice. Artificial trees may be less flammable than natural trees, but check the label to make sure. And check the label to see if it's been tested by Underwriters Laboratories. Usually you can put lights on plastic trees, but don't ever put electric lights on metallic trees. Metallic trees can become charged with electricity if strung with faulty lights, and anyone touching it could be electrocuted.

Cooking
With all the extra cooking many people do during the holidays, more accidents can occur. Take these precautions: Don't wear loose clothes while cooking; loose sleeves cause most fires that start at the stove. Keep the stove clean and free of grease. Don't keep a can of grease or a box of matches on the stove. Use potholders, not towels, to move pots. Towels can drag across burners and catch fire. Don't hang combustibles, like wet clothes, over the stove. If there are small children around, don't store cookies or similar foods above the stove. Children may climb up after them and get burned.

Check all holiday lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Don't use indoor lights outside and vice versa, and be sure that outside lights are firmly anchored to protect them from wind damage. Don't string more than three sets of lights together. Turn off all lights on trees and outside when you go to bed or leave the house.

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Morgan Is Recipient Of Several Honors



The old adage, "When it rains, it pours" became a reality this year for Joe L. Morgan of Route 2, Marshall. He received recognition via several honors for achievements and contributions in several fields.

He was awarded the American Security Council Star by the American Security Council which promotes national security and preparedness from its Washington, D. C. base of operations.

Morgan received the gold medal, struck by the Royal Mint of London, from International Who's in Community Service. He also received the "Certificate of Merit" for distinguished service and is listed in Volume IX, Dictionary of International Biography of London.

William S. Powell, Curator

of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has appraised Morgan that biographical sketches the latter recently contributed to Dictionary of North Carolina Biography have been accepted for publication. Morgan submitted biographies, following extensive research of former United States Senator and Federal Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, philanthropist and Ambassador George W. Vanderbilt, and Congressman and Ambassador Richmond Pearson. This reference work will fill a scholarly and popular need in North Carolina and is modeled after The Dictionary of American Biography.

Morgan composed two song-poems entitled, "I Remember" and "Happiness" both of which were set to music by Nashville Music Productions. The copyrights to both compositions were granted recently by Office of Copyright, Library of Congress.

This week Morgan was notified by the Editorial Board of American Biographical Institute that he has received the honor of appearing in the historical Bicentennial Memorial edition of Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans for 1975 - 1976. This publication celebrates America's heritage as the nation enters the 200th year of its founding.

David Caldwell Succeeds Metcalf As Finance Officer

David Caldwell, who has served as bookkeeper in the Madison County Auditor's office for the past year and a half has been appointed Finance Officer of Madison County. The announcement was made Monday following Caldwell's appointment by the commissioners.

It was explained that Emery Metcalf, who has served for

the past four years as Auditor (now referred to as Finance Officer), is one of the three candidates elected in the past general election to serve as Soil & Water Conservation Supervisor.

It was further explained that the Finance Officer is appointed by the county commissioners instead of being elected as in the past. This was new legislation passed by the general assembly.

Mr. Caldwell, who resided with his wife in Walnut, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Caldwell, of Route 1, Marshall. He is a graduate of Marshall High School (1968) and also graduated from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. Mrs. Caldwell is the former Miss Joan Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, of Walnut.

"Have enjoyed serving the people of Madison County as Auditor for past two terms and I think the commissioners made a splendid choice in naming David Caldwell as Finance Officer. I am looking forward to serving the public now as one of the Soil and Water Supervisors", Mr. Metcalf said.

Saturday's Winners

Despite cold, windy, rainy and snowy weather, the first of four drawings of the Merchants Association was held Saturday afternoon at the courthouse.

The next drawing will be held this Saturday at 3 p.m. at the courthouse with the first winner drawn receiving \$50 in trade certificates and eight winners receiving \$25 in trade certificates. You must be present to win.

Last Saturday's winners were: Earl Rector, \$50 and \$25; Other \$25 winners were Claude Faulkner, Inez Henderson, Linda Haynie, Hugh Ward, Frank Wilde, Mrs. Jack Boone and Johnny Dodson.



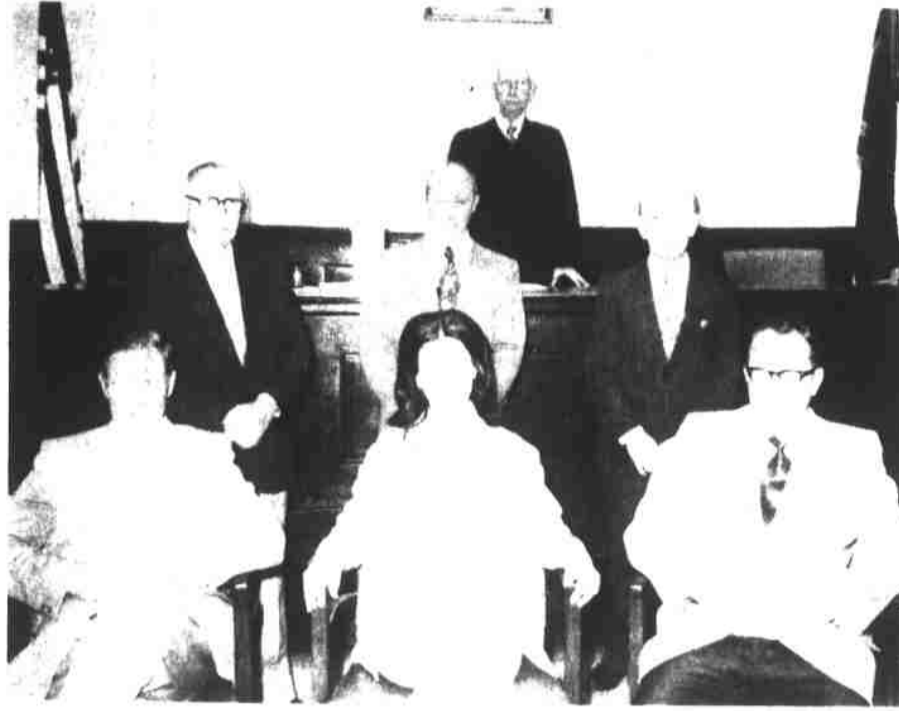
JAMES T. LEDFORD was re-elected chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners at the meeting of the board here Monday. Other members of the board are Mrs. Virginia Anderson and Ervin Adams.

W.T. Moore Is Presented Gift Here On Monday

W. T. "Bill" Moore, of Spring Creek, a longtime county official and staunch Democrat, was honored here Monday at a reception following the administering of oaths by Judge W. K. McLean to county officials. Refreshments were served in the lobby of the courthouse to the officials and friends who attended the event.

During the social period, Mr. Moore was presented a gift by the commissioners and the courthouse personnel in token of appreciation for the years of devoted service he has rendered in the county.

Mr. Moore, who is affectionately known to hundreds as "Bill", is now retired from public service.



JUDGE W. K. McLEAN (shown in background) administered oaths to county officials in the courtroom here Monday afternoon. Front row, Commissioners Ervin Adams, Mrs. Virginia Anderson, James T. Ledford (chairman); standing, Judson Edwards, Clerk of Court; Harold Wallin, Tax Collector; E. Y. Ponder, sheriff.



Judge W. K. McLean pictured administering oaths here Monday.



Harold Wallin shown taking oath as Tax Collector.



Judson Edwards shown taking oath as Clerk of Superior Court.



Sheriff E. Y. Ponder shows taking oath as sheriff with Mrs. Ponder holding Bible.

Story Hour Here Wednesday

A Story Hour will be held next Wednesday, December 11, at the library here beginning at 10 a.m.

The Story Man will be Dale Backler. All children from 5-8 years of age are invited.

Roads Opening Madison County

The years were the late 1930s. The country was working its way out of the mess the Great Depression had made of its economic system. "Our generation" had graduated from college or had taken its first steps into the business world.

We got our first coaching job at Walnut High School in Madison County. We owned a brand new deluxe model convertible with heater, rumble seat and radio, so we moved out to the old home place farm near Mars Hill and drove back and forth to school daily - past Petersburg, Hayes Run, Marshall and Brush Creek to the big school on Jewel Hill. The songs on the car radio as we cruised Madison's "Main Street" included "String of Pearls," "Paper Moon," "The Lady

is A Tramp," "Solitude," "Blue Moon," "Two Cigarettes in the Dark," "Let's Put Out the Lights And Go to Sleep." It was that kind of world.

Madison's towns teemed with young life then. The depression had driven young families back to the farms to live with grandparents. Young men without jobs plowed up the old fields and planted new crops. Vegetables, country ham, eggs, bacon, chicken were plentiful. There was little money, but no one was hungry in Madison.

We grew familiar with Madison landmarks in the three years we coached at Walnut - Mars Hill viewed from Little Mountain, with old Bailey in the background; the crossroads hamlet of Petersburg sunk in the gorge of Bull Creek, Hayes Run narrows; mile-long Marshall with its school on a sandbar in the river. Spill Corn, Grapevine, Bone Creek, Devil Fork, Shut-In. We came to know the real Madison people.

Madison had fine roads then. The previous decade had been a road-building era - a new concrete highway out of the old street car tracks to Weaverville, a paved road out past the Forks of Ivy, a road by Beech Glen, the road paved between Marshall and Mars Hill, a new road over the mountains to Hot Springs, and, to top them all, a new "million dollar highway" down the river to Marshall. No more long trip by West Buncombe or out by Mars Hill, or down the New Stock road by Jupiter.

It wasn't long, however, until the depression began to ease up. Then the great war came along and Madison's young people made the big exodus never to return again. The "good times on the farm" faded into history.

Madison faded, too. It was bypassed by the interstate road system. The state built few new roads. Bustling communities became ghost towns. Few new doctors, dentists, lawyers moved in. No tourist trade, no huge new shopping centers.

Now the trend is beginning to change again. Not too long ago the folks in Madison voted themselves a brand new high school. They didn't build it on a sandbar this time, but they found another unique site for it. A medieval baron would have loved it. It's like a castle sprawled out over its mountaintop. Its driveway rival San Francisco. Its football team needs a ski lift to get to the athletic field. It's a fine educational facility.

Madison is also getting new roads. The Appalachian Highway (U. S. 19-23) again makes Mars Hill the main entrance to the county. A new N. C. 213 will soon modernize that old "Main Street." It shoots straight up Big Branch as the crow flies to the saddle of the Mars Hill Ridge. There it splits the Mars Hill campus. It leaps over Petersburg like U. S. 19-23 leaps the Forks of Ivy. From there it courses due west to rejoin the old road at the "rock house" at the head of Hayes Run. Mars Hill - to Marshall will soon be a matter of ten minutes.

But there's still something needed out in Madison - and they may have to ask all those old friends of the poverty years to help them get it. What they're asking for are some of those big-wheeled, dirt-moving monsters. They want to level out some new roads from the backwaters of the creeks to that new citadel of learning. (It isn't much, but those Madison people never do ask for much).

From that hilltop, these young people can see all the way to their granddaddy's land - only now they have to spend ten more years before they can see it. In simple words, Madison, that's the plan. Madison's future is bright.

Silver's Mill Receives Profile Award

Silver's Mill at Petersburg was featured on the radio program Profile over Station WWNC in Asheville, Sunday, December 1, at 6:15 p.m.

Bill Silver, owner of Silver's Mill was interviewed by Fred Brown, WWNC staff announcer, on the 15-minute program.

Following the broadcast, Silver's Mill received a Profile Award from WWNC and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, sponsor of the

program, for its outstanding contribution to the industrial growth and development of North Carolina. The citation was signed by Thomas A. Rose, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and by Wilson Wearne, president of Multimedia Broadcasting Incorporated.

The Profile Award was presented to Silver's Mill by David Luckadoo, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina's representative in the Asheville District Office.

The purpose of these broadcasts is to assist in the campaign to attract new industry to North Carolina and to develop greater public appreciation of business and industry already located in the State.

Right Turn On Red Policy Is Issued

Raleigh - North Carolina Patrol Commander, Colonel E. W. Jones, today announced the following Patrol policy that will prevail beginning 1 January 1975 with respect to "right turn on red" law which officially expires 31 December 1974.

Colonel Jones said that as of 1 January, the Highway Patrol will arrest for flagrant violations that endanger life and property. The Patrol will issue either verbal or written warnings for less serious violations pending action by the 1975 Session of the General Assembly.

The Department of Transportation and Highway Safety will seek continuing legislation on the present law since it has proved very satisfactory. The 1969 signs that were erected, and which prohibit right turn on red will not be removed pending action by the legislature.

Highway Link Open To Public

Another link in the Appalachian Highway, a three-mile section near Mars Hill is now open to traffic.

The new four-lane expressway extends from N. C. 213 near Mars Hill to the junction of N. C. 213 and U. S. 19-23. The Asheville corridor is now about 70 per cent complete, according to Don Martin, assistant to the Director of highway engineering.

Decreased Interest Rate On FmHA Rural Housing Loans

Madison County Farmers Home Administration has received notification that interest rates on FmHA Rural Housing loans have been decreased from five percent to four percent effective immediately.

FmHA has adequate housing funds available to assist Madison County families in meeting their housing needs. Loan funds can be used to purchase a lot and construct a low to modest cost dwelling of modest design, purchase new or previously occupied dwellings or to repair existing dwellings. These loans are repayable in thirty-three years.

Those individuals who desire Farmers Home Administration assistance or

additional information FmHA programs, please contact Douglas E. Taylor, County Supervisor or Vernon H. Rankin, Assistant County Supervisor in the Citizens Bank Building in Marshall. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Commissioners To Meet

Arrangement was made this week that the regular meetings of the board of commissioners usually held on the first Monday of each month will in the future be held on the first Friday of each month.