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Celebration At Wolf Laurel Successful; Robinson Honored

By JIM STORY
The second annual Madison County Celebration was held at the Wolf Laurel Restaurant last Friday night before an overflow crowd. The event is sponsored by the Madison County Planning Board for the purpose of hearing progress reports from the various county agencies and organizations as well as from municipal mayors, Mars Hill College, area governing bodies, and elected officials. Don Anderson, of Mars Hill, chairman of the sponsoring board, presided.

Frances Ramsey, 4-C Board and Social Services; Ed Morton, Health Department; Mrs. Mattee Mashburn, Library Board; Garland Woody, Hot Springs Health Clinic; Raleigh English, Soil & Water Conservation, (in

absence of Bill Brown) and RC&D; Dr. Evelyn Underwood, Bicentennial Commission; Mrs. Dorothy Arrington, Opportunity Corporation; Zeno H. Ponder, Industrial Development Board; Earle Wise, Agricultural Extension Service; and Robert L. Edwards, Planning Board. Members of the above agencies present were also recognized.

Dr. Fred B. Bentley, president of Mars Hill College, drew loud applause for his report on Mars Hill College and the many ways it is involved with county progress. He cited future programs and plans for the college and praised the leadership of the various officials and agencies for their accomplishments.

Joe R. Henderson, mayor of Hot Springs, gave a brief report on various improvements and future plans for Hot Springs. William Powell, mayor of Mars Hill, and Lorado Ponder, mayor of Marshall, were unable to attend.

James T. Ledford, chairman of the county board of commissioners, commanded the various agencies and organizations for their cooperation with the commissioners and pledged to go "all-out" for the continued progress in the county.

Group singing was then enjoyed by the large crowd with Mrs. Charles Bruce, pianist, and Mrs. Fred Bentley, song leader.

ROBINSON HONORED

One of the most pleasant surprises of the occasion came when Robert L. Edwards, county school superintendent, presented D. M. Robinson, one of the county's most loyal and respected leaders (now retired) with a beautiful plaque from the Planning Board which expressed the appreciation of everyone for the valuable accomplishments and devotion to the county for so many years. In presenting the plaque, Edwards cited the following information concerning the honored recipient:

Doug Robinson was born in Mars Hill in 1903. Education: Mars Hill College, 1922; Tusculum College, 1926; B.S. Degree; graduate study at University of North Carolina; teacher, coach, principal and superintendent of Madison County schools; supervisor with Internal Revenue Service, 1940, served as president of French Broad EMC, 1942, named manager of French Broad EMC; from 1942 to 1972, when Robinson retired, the membership of the co-op increased from 440 members to 15,793 members. He has served in the following capacities: Secretary Madison County Development Board; secretary - treasurer Board of Trustees of Marshall Industrial Park; Director Mato Packing Co.; Chairman Madison County Planning Board; committee of 100; local school committee; director Asheville Agriculture Development Council; director, Asheville Area Chapter American Red Cross; member Remco Manufacturing Company, Madison Crafts, B & R Mica Company, Yancey Mica Mines and Gregg and West Mica Company. He is a 32-degree Mason and Shriner; and was appointed by the General Assembly to the Board of Trustees, University of North Carolina.

When the plaque was presented, Robinson, known to thousands as "Doug", was given a standing ovation. In accepting the plaque and accolades, Robinson expressed his appreciation for the honors and stated that whatever accomplishments he had made was due to the people and county he so dearly beloved.

JUDGE McLEAN SPEAKS
The guest speaker at the event was Judge W. K.



JUDGE W. K. McLean, of Asheville, was the featured speaker at the Annual Madison County Celebration held at the Wolf Laurel Restaurant last Friday night. The retired jurist is shown above as he complimented leaders in Madison County for the progress being made.



D. M. ROBINSON, (right) retired manager of French Broad EMC, was honored at the banquet held at the Wolf Laurel Restaurant last Friday night. He was presented an engraved plaque by R. L. Edwards, (left) county school superintendent, in appreciation for his many years of service in many capacities in Madison County.

Following a buffet-style dinner, Ned Young gave a glowing report on the proposed "Madison Manor Nursing Home" which will be located in Mars Hill. The facility will cost in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million and will contain 100 beds and an adequate personnel including nurses, aides, dietitians and other attendants. He stated that the facility, hopefully, will be ready by next November. Plans for groundbreaking are being made. Young praised the efforts of James T. Ledford, chairman of the Madison County board of commissioners, in making the nursing home a reality. He also commended other individuals who have assisted in working toward the building of the nursing home which will serve this entire area.

Among those recognized from other sections included Robert Shepherd, executive director Land-of-Sky Regional Council; and District Court Judge Ray Braswell, of Newland. Optimistic and informative reports were given by the following:
Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, Recreation Commission; Mrs. Linda Harrell, Housing Committee; William Roberts, Board of Education; Mrs.



HUGE ROCKS hampered efforts to clear the US 25-70 bypass near Tillery Branch intersection Monday following a landslide described as the worst ever on the bypass. The slide was caused by heavy rains during the weekend. Traffic was also hampered since the highway from Ivy to Marshall's Main Street (25-70 Business) was "closed" where slides have occurred recently. The slide occurred about 4:30 p.m. Monday and one lane was opened for traffic about 11 p.m. (Photo by Jim Story)



Mrs. Anna Belle White To Retire As Teacher

Teachers of the 4th, 5th and 6th grades; the reading teacher and aides; and the librarian of Marshall School honored Mrs. Anna Belle White at a surprise party on Saturday evening, March 29th, at the French Broad EMC building.

Her hobbies are reading, crocheting and doing embroidery work.

Mrs. White, a native of



MRS. ANNA BELLE WHITE

Mrs. White, who has taught the fifth grade at Marshall for 24 years, will retire at the end of the current school year, after teaching a total of more than 31 years. She first taught at Lower Big Pine, then came to Marshall in 1951.

Mrs. White was presented a book, "Leaves of God," and an electric can opener by her co-workers. Gifts from her family included an orchid corsage from her husband, Guy; an Easter lily from her brother, Hubert Worley; and jewelry from her son, Tom. Tom had previously given his parents a color television.

Madison County, is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Worley. She is married to Buy White and they have two sons, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Those attending the party were Mr. and Mrs. White and their son, Tom; Hubert Worley, Miss Ann McKinney, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Briggs, Jr.; Miss Sharon Sluder, Clayton Hensley, Miss Billie Jean Redmon, Mrs. Benny Thomas and daughter, Diane; Mr. and Mrs. Clive Whitt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Don West, Mrs. Reva Plemmons, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Henson, Mrs. Elymus Payne, and Mrs. James Story.

Rev. Reeves To Preach Here Sunday

Mrs. White graduated at Marshall High School in 1929. She attended Lenoir Rhyne College and Asheville - Biltmore College (now UNC-A), and graduated cum laude from Carson - Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. with a B.A. degree in education and psychology. She is a member of the Marshall Baptist Church where she serves as clerk and previously taught a Sunday School Class. She is also a member and Past Matron of Marshall Chapter No. 35, Order of the Eastern Star.

The Rev. Joseph M. Reeves, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church of Charlotte, will deliver the sermon at the morning worship service at Marshall United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 6. The Marshall congregation extends a warm invitation to any who can attend this service. Mr. Reeves is a Walnut native, the son of Mrs. A. S. Reeves and the late Mr. Reeves. He served the Marshall - Walnut charge while completing his education at the University of Tennessee and later at Duke University Divinity School.

Mars Hill Withdraws From Land-of-Sky Regional Council

William P. Powell, mayor of Mars Hill, and member of the Mountain Ramparts Board a representative of the Council, and chairman of the Human Services Committee, has officially resigned from the organization and has also announced that the Town of Mars Hill has withdrawn from the membership. These announcements were officially made in letters to Robert E. Shepherd, Executive Director, Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

The letters follow:
March 26, 1975
Mr. Robert E. Shepherd, Ex. Dir.
Land-of-Sky Regional Council
756 Merrimon Ave.
P. O. Box 2175
Asheville, N.C.
Dear Mr. Shepherd,

The Town Board in the past has backed most of the actions and programs under the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, but the following questions have bothered us for the past year:
1. Since last July, what percentage of your time and money has been spent on administering programs? What has been spent on planning?

Cancer Heads To Meet

The Board of Directors and workers of the Madison County Unit American Cancer Society will meet at Plemmons Restaurant at twelve-thirty o'clock Saturday, April 5.

This meeting was postponed from March 25. All those concerned are urged to attend.

2. Is the Land-of-Sky Regional Council still a planning agency?
3. If so, why has Madison County (and the three towns in the county) been forced to hire a full time planner?
4. Does the Land-of-Sky Regional Council "Plan" to give any specific help to the smaller municipalities in the region?

5. Since being designated L.R.O., what has the Land-of-Sky Regional Council done to help the small municipalities?
6. Since 99 percent plus of all actions taken are directly concerned with the four counties and the larger municipalities, why should the smaller towns even participate in the council?

Example: Number 1...
The A-96 reviews to be acted on today reflect the following: Total of all applications, \$12,288,499.00; City of Asheville, \$8,134,943.00, 67 percent; Counties, \$2,057,781.00, 17 percent; Counties and Asheville, \$10,192,724.00, 84 percent; All others (small municipalities), \$2,095,775.00, 16 percent. But - of this sum, C. D. money has been withdrawn in the amount of \$782,526.00 leaving a balance of \$32,671.00 less than 1/4 of 1 percent. Example: Number 2...
L.E.A.A. grant requests breaks down as follows: Total \$448,991.00; Counties, \$283,978.00, 63 percent; Asheville \$132,343.00, 29 percent; Hendersonville, \$20,997.00, 5 percent; Small Municipalities, \$32,671.00, 7 percent.

Since each member of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council is required to give two years

advance notice before withdrawing its membership, please consider this as the town of Mars Hill's formal notice of withdrawal.

Sincerely,
-s- William P. Powell,
Mayor

March 27, 1975
Mr. Robert E. Shepherd, Ex. Dir.
Land-of-Sky Regional Council
756 Merrimon Ave.
P. O. Box 2175
Asheville, N. C.
Dear Mr. Shepherd,

Since the Town of Mars Hill has withdrawn from the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (as per my letter of 26 March 1975), I do hereby resign my committee assignments on the Mountain Ramparts Board, as a representative of the council, and chairman of the Human Services Committee.

Please consider these positions vacant as of this date so that you and the chairman of the board will have ample time to appoint new members before the next meeting.

I feel that I have put in a lot of time and energy into your

organization, and had high hopes that the small towns would benefit from Region B once it received L.R.O. status. This has not been the case.

The policies, actions, and direction has been shifted directly to the four county board of commissioners and the City of Asheville, therefore, I feel that these five boards may as well assume full control and not have to be bothered with the smaller units of government.

Sincerely,
-s- William P. Powell
Mayor



DANGEROUS OVERHANGING ROCKS between Marshall and the Ivy Bridge on US 25-70 Business are pictured above. Motorists have been delayed via the Marshall by-pass for weeks. Landslides, large cracks, and loose boulders have been caused by blasting for stonehills material for highway and railway maintenance, as well as continuous wet weather.

Before . . .



After . . .



THE "LADY OF JUSTICE" was the victim of strong winds on Tuesday afternoon of last week and came crashing down to the courthouse roof from her perch on top of the dome. The Lady, with her balanced scales, had withstood all kinds of weather for the past 70 years. Her absence leaves a void atop the dome but plans are being made to replace her with a younger lady. (See Heard and Seen column).

Madison High Groups Excel

Madison High School representatives have performed well in recent contests, according to J. C. Wallin Jr., principal.

The Future Farmers of America Club won first in the land judging contest at East Yancey this week and will represent District 8 at a state meet at Bowman High School at Wadesboro April 5. Team members are Steve Cutshall, Steve Burns, Stevie Messer and Gary Moore.

In a Vocational Industrial Clubs of America contest at Tuscola, the Madison club rated first in opening and closing ceremonies; and Freddie Bishop, Darlene Evans and Terrell McGough were elected district officers.

At Marion, the Madison band received an "excellent" rating for its performance. "We feel that this is a very high rating for a band that has only been organized for six months," Wallin said, "when competing with bands which have existed for many years."

Rocky Bluff To Open

District Ranger Bobby Brady said in Hot Springs today that the Rocky Bluff Recreation Area would be opened on April 4, 1975 and would remain open until next September.

JUDGE McLEAN SPEAKS
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