

THE NEWS - RECORD



Red Oak Controversy Outlined

By CLAUDIA F. GREEN

On July 7, at 10:30 a.m. Madison County Board of Education will be meeting with the parents of 27 students who live in Madison County, and attend Red Oak school and 8 students who attend North Buncombe High School.

Before this meeting, I think the voters in Madison County should know the background as to why these children in this area have always attended these Buncombe County schools. Also you should be aware of what value the Madison County Board of Education places on the safety and welfare of school students.

Before Red Oak School was built in 1928, people in this area, where Northern Buncombe County borders Madison County, were being deprived of any education above the 7th grade.

All roads from this point at Red Oak School to Marshall were narrow one-lane dirt roads winding down either French Broad River bluff or Ivy River Bluff. Therefore, Madison County school officials refused to send buses up to this area on any of the existing roads.

The only educational opportunities for this area were provided by 4 small one-room schools.

(1) Oak Grove School located Northeast of Bend of Ivy Road in Madison; (2) Shanghi School located East on Jupiter road; (3) Grandview located Northwest of Red Oak in Madison County; and (4) Flinthill located west on Oak Ridge Road.

Some families including the Luther Roberts family (Mrs. Louise Roberts Fisher) and Will Tillery family (Miss Helen Tillery) moved from this area to have access to High School for their children. These families returned when Red Oak was built. My Grandfather, Mr. J. B. Fox, sent 3 of his sons, Claude, Clifford and Otis to board with a Bryan family on Hayes Run and attend Madison Seminary High School. Later when Marshall school was moved from the hill to the Island - some walked from this area, including Clifford Fox, and Cecil Green, all the way to Marshall High School. Then Marshall buses were sent to the mouth of Ivy Road on 25-70 but no further before Red Oak was built.

In 1923, Dr. R. L. Moore, then President of Mars Hill College, was elected to the Madison County Board of Education.

Because of his knowledge and concern for this area, it is remembered, he began work with the parents of this area and Buncombe County Board of Education to get a High School built for this area. As a boy, Clell Fisher remembers attending one of these meetings on Old Oak Grove School with his father, Mr. Arealis Fisher. The parents agreed to combine these 4 small one-room schools, Oak Grove and Grandview being in Madison County, Shanghi and Flint Hill being in Buncombe County, and thus the Red Oak High School was built and the district was drawn up, one third of which lies in Madison County. The southwest boundary, following Flat Creek to French Broad River and Highway 25-70, Northeast to Houstons Residence on 1576, across Madison - Buncombe County line. (Description of Red Oak District from Buncombe County Board of Education.)

However, the agreement between the two boards of education seems to have been only verbal and therefore, record of any written agreement hasn't been found, which leads to the problem we are facing now.

Apparently the Madison Board of Education has decided to move their attendance boundary to the Buncombe - Madison County line, and assign these students to Madison school. However, we have had no notice to this effect. Only from the Buncombe Board of Education we have been notified that we need a release from Madison to be re-assigned to the schools the students are now attending.

In conclusion, we would like for the voters in Madison County to know why we oppose this decision of the Madison County Board of Education. All these roads leading from Red Oak to Marshall still remain in the same condition which was considered unsafe for buses before 1928. Panhandle Road and Kuykendall Road leading to 25-70, Spruce town and Hunter branch roads leading down to Ivy River road and Bend of Ivy road. Only Ivy Hill Road, passing Mr. Zeno Ponder's has been widened and paved and Ivy River up to Long Branch.

Also within the past year the bridges crossing Ivy River on Ivy River road and Bend of Ivy Road have been condemned and a 3 ton weight limit placed on them. The empty school bus weighs more than 3 tons. Therefore, the bus crossing these bridges must unload the children, in any kind of weather, to walk across the bridge unsupervised, and board it again on the other side. Not to mention the fact that Mike Boyd from the Asheville Citizen Times and I personally measured many places on these two roads last school year which were only 8-12 feet wide, the North Carolina school bus we measured the same day was 8 feet across the back bumper. North Carolina Law 6-118-176 - Article 21 states, "each county and city board of education shall make assignments for pupils to public schools as to provide

Closed On 4th

People in Madison County will forget their daily routine this Friday as they observe July 4th. Many will go on picnics and trips while others will relax. Some will relax at home while others will watch for the wagon train and be spectators at events in Marshall, Mars Hill and the Springs.

All county, state and federal agencies will close at midday on the 4th. Schools, banks, businesses and most offices will be closed.

for the health, safety, and general welfare of the pupils."

Based on the information in this article and any knowledge you might have of this unique area, I would like to ask the voters in Madison County to consider the action of the Madison County Board of Education in trying to force these students who have never attended Madison County schools to begin now under these existing conditions.

It should be noted that all these students in question can now ride the Red Oak bus out a safe 2-lane road to the school; all live from within a few hundred feet from the door of the school to not more than 4 miles away.

We understand this action has been prompted by the potential loss of some teachers from Madison County because of the decline in enrollment of students.

Therefore, ask the voters to note that the Madison County Board of Education apparently places more value on providing a job for one teacher than the safety and welfare of these 27 students involved.

Also note the time and date of this meeting was set on the first work day following a holiday in order that parents who have to miss work to attend would have to forfeit their holiday pay.

If you are a concerned voter, would you please speak your convictions on this matter to Superintendent Edwards or any one of the members of the Board of Education that you might know before the July 7 meeting. Thank you very much.



DR. ARTHUR F. WILLIAMS

Dr. Williams Retires As Pastor Here

Dr. Arthur Frost Williams, who has served as pastor of the Marshall Presbyterian Church for the past seven years, retired officially on Monday, June 30.

One of the church's largest congregations were present last Sunday to hear Dr. Williams' final sermon as pastor. People from many churches in the area were present and following the worship service an Appreciation Dinner honoring Dr. and Mrs. Williams was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church.

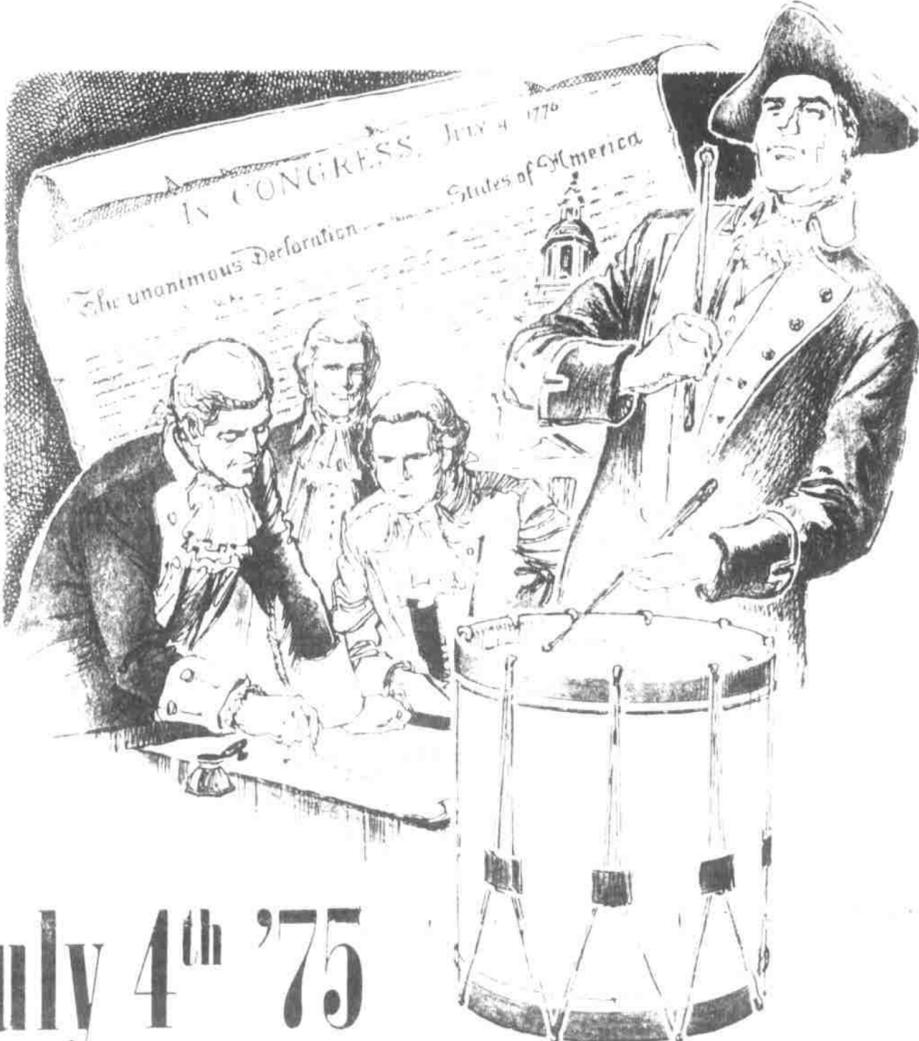
Dr. Williams was also honored by being made Pastor-Emeritus of the church and he and Mrs. Williams were presented a silver tray as a token of love and appreciation by members of the church.

In addition to being pastor of the church, Dr. Williams has also been active in civic affairs of Marshall and vicinity and has served often as moderator at the annual Christmas Pageant here.

"My wife and I have had many happy memories we have enjoyed here and during the many months we have made while serving here," Dr. Williams stated. "I am sure we will continue to have many happy memories of our time here."

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July 4th '75



Rodeo To Be Here July 4-5

The annual Southern Rodeo Association Championship will be held on the Island here on Friday, July 4 and Saturday, July 5, it has been announced. The events are being sponsored by the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department and the Marshall Merchants Association.

and the night performance at 7:30 o'clock. On Saturday, July 5th, there will be a night performance only beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Among the events listed will be bronc riding, calf roping, bull riding, barrel racing, bull dogging, ribbon roping, and other thrilling events. Admission will be \$1.50 for adults and 75c for children.



AN UNUSUALLY LARGE EGG was found a few days ago in one of the hen's nests at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Nolan, of Marshall. The egg measured 6" and 7 1/4" in circumference.

Ingle Home Entered Two Men Arrested

Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said here this week that Jerry Galloway, 24, of Spartanburg, S.C. and Wayne Lampley, 20, of the Mars Hill - Beech Glen area, were in the county jail here charged with breaking, entering and larceny last Sunday at the home of Lowery Ingle, of the Paint Fork community.

Ponder stated that \$500 worth of tools and merchandise was missing from the Ingle home.

Attention Drivers

Motor Vehicles Commissioner Edward L. Powell reminds motorists that effective July 1, 1975, legislation was enacted by the 1975 General Assembly which will affect North Carolina drivers applying for a change of address.

notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of any address change within 60 days after such a change is made. Commissioner Powell advised that for drivers with an address change, it will be necessary to appear in person at any driver license office to obtain a duplicate license showing the change of address.

Arthur Wood Injured

Art Wood, of Mars Hill, was injured Monday afternoon at his home when a tractor overturned on him. He was rushed to Memorial Mission

Hospital where it was found he sustained a punctured lung and several crushed ribs. Mr. Wood is a member of the Mars Hill College faculty.

Dr. M.T. Morgan To Preside At Conference

Dr. Monroe T. Morgan of Route 5, Johnson City, Tenn., and Chairman of the Department of Environmental Health at East Tennessee State University, will be presiding over the Annual Educational Conference of the National Environmental Health Association as its President next week.

The National Environmental Health Association is the professional organization for Sanitarians, Environmentalists, Environmental Health Administrators, Teachers of Environmental Health, Environmental Health Researchers and members of the Food and Drug Administration as well as industry in these areas. Dr. Morgan is married to the former Shirley L. Lewis of Elizabethton, Tenn. and is the father of two sons, Monroe T., Jr., and Marcus Thomas. Dr. Morgan is a 1952 graduate of Marshall High School and a 1957 graduate of Mars Hill College. His parents are the Rev. and Mrs. Frank W. Morgan of Madison County.

The 4th At Mars Hill

The Mars Hill Lions Club is sponsoring several events on the 4th of July including good string music from one or more bands. There will be special square dance teams and square dancing for everyone beginning at 7 p.m.

There will also be a display of fireworks Friday night with proceeds to aid the visually handicapped.

The 4th At Hot Springs

The Hot Springs Lions are sponsoring an interesting program for the 4th of July which includes a Flea Market. At 3 p.m., games including Bingo, etc. A fish fry at 5 p.m.

Fireworks at 9 p.m. Country and square dance from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Go-Cart drawing will be held at 10:30 p.m. Hot Dogs and other eats and soft drinks will be available.

Bull Creek 4-H Met June 16

The Bull Creek 4-H Club met on Monday night, June 16. Charles Craine showed two films on Forest Fires. Mr. Craine took names of the ones who were interested in Forestry. Refreshments were served by Phillip Fox and Mark Edwards and the meeting was adjourned by Eddie Fox.

Mars Hill Awarded \$18,000 Grant

The town of Mars Hill was awarded a L.E.A.A. Grant effective July 1, 1975 for \$18,000 to be used to bring the Mars Hill Police force up to the full time minimum provided to purchase an additional police car and equipment.

This grant supplements an \$4,000 grant previously awarded the town for radio and communication equipment. Bill Powell, Mayor, stated that these two grants could not have come at a better time. This will give Mars Hill citizens the best police protection ever - without having to raise taxes to cover the much needed improvements.



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