

French Broad EMC Directors Retain Positions

By JIM STORY

Present members on the board of directors of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation retained their positions when they defeated opposition candidates (Citizens Ticket) in the election of directors at the annual Co-Op meeting held in the Madison High School gymnasium last Saturday.

Interest ran high when about 2,000 members attended the meeting. Registration started at 10 a.m. but due to the large number of persons as well as processing hundreds of proxies, the registration deadline was extended when it was realized that it would be impossible to

complete them by 2 p.m., the original deadline.

From 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., the large, but fortunately orderly, crowd jammed near the registration desks. Processing the registrants and the large numbers of proxies slowed down the process to a snail's pace. Each name had to be checked off the Master Registration books of the Co-Op. Also each name on the proxy forms had to be like wise checked. The girls who had the responsibility of doing this tedious job did an excellent job under the most trying circumstances.

The business session, scheduled to start at 2 p.m., was postponed until 4:00

o'clock with hundreds of persons still waiting to be registered. The doors were closed at 2 p.m. but those "in line" were allowed to register.

Although the program was delayed 2 1/2 hours, the business session was held while hundreds crowded about the registration desks awaiting their turns to register and secure ballots so they could vote for their choices for board members.

Following routine business and the recognition of widows for former directors, E.C. Teague, President of the Co-Op, who presided at the business session, recognized Dean Ralph M. Lee, of Mars Hill College, who introduced the featured speaker.

Congressman Roy A. Taylor, realizing the situation, cut brief his talk but ably spoke on the energy crisis. "There is no pleasant way to deal with a scarcity," he said.

"Some people expect Congress to perform a miracle and end the energy shortage without consumer sacrifice and I wish that it were possible," Congressman Taylor said.

The Congressman said that utility rates paid by all electric consumers have been pushed higher and higher by oil shortages and unstable coal prices and have created serious financial hardships for most consumers. He expressed the hope that

as larger supplies of coal become available and utility companies use coal instead of oil to generate power, consumer rates will stabilize at more reasonable levels.

The federal government is aiding in the effort by forcing power companies and other heavy industries to convert to coal from oil, Congressman Taylor said.

"Of course, the day of cheap energy is gone but I am anxious to help create an economic climate which will make possible again the purchase of electric and other types of energy at reasonable prices which the people can afford to pay," Taylor said.

Following Congressman Taylor's address, reports

were read and other pertinent business was transacted.

In the meantime, long lines of registered members awaited their turns to the 12 voting booths in another section of the gymnasium. Many of the voters also had proxies in which they had to mark. This required hours; also. When voting finally concluded, a sparse crowd filed back into the gym for the drawings for numerous electrical appliances.

The final drawing was concluded shortly before 8 p.m. By this time, everyone was so tired (that is, those who stayed) that they seemed happy that the meeting was officially over and they could get some food and rest.

But it wasn't over for members of the Credential Committee. They had the awesome job of counting the ballots. Early Sunday morning they had completed their job with the following results:

Madison County District (Three Year Terms)

Albert Freeman, Jr. 1941, Joseph Justice 1659, John R. Gardin 977, and Levi Hunter 1096 (Freeman and Justice, winners)

Madison County District (Two Year Terms)

John O. Corbett 1921, Lon Sluder 1078 (Corbett winner)

Yancey County District (Three Year Term)

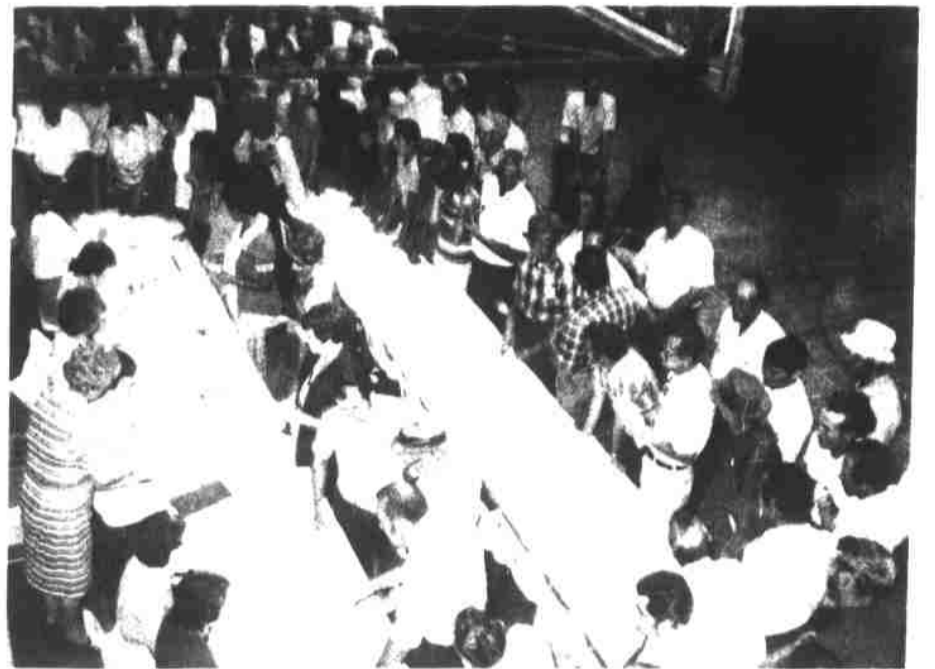
J. E. Clevenger 1888, John Powers 1115 (Clevenger winner)

Yancey County District (Two Year Terms)

James W. Ray 1883, Yates Bailey 1075 (Ray winner)

Mitchell County District (Three Year Term)

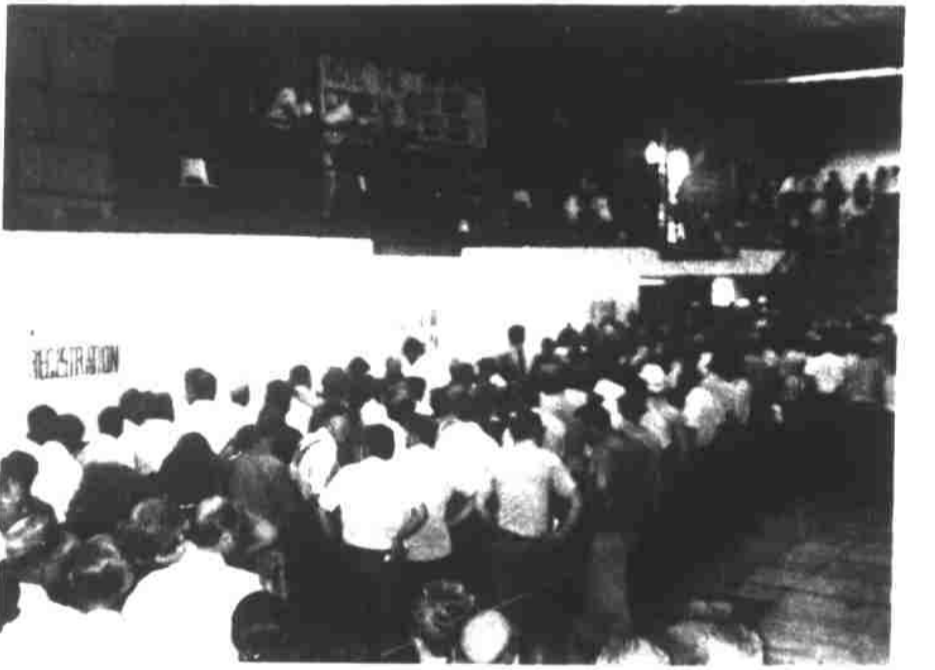
E. H. Poteat 1850, Farnell Cooke 1135 (Poteat winner)



At 2:00 P.M.



At 3:00 P.M.



At 4:00 P.M.



At 5:00 P.M.

Leaks At Marshall Reservoir Cause Concern

The North Carolina Environmental Commission last Thursday ordered the Town of Marshall to lower the water level of the 15-acre reservoir on Hunter Creek to 40 feet at a rate of a foot a day. The order was issued following a hearing in Raleigh.

According to Marshall officials, the Order was ac-

cepted and the lowering of the water has started.

The viewpoints have been expressed concerning the leaks at the reservoir.

Stewart George of the public information office in the Department of Natural and Economic Resources said the agency is concerned about the situation. "Our people

discussed it at length all week trying to find a course of action," George said. George said the environmental agency's experts had determined that the dam "has been leaky ever since it was built some 15 or 20 years ago."

He said the environmental management people had settled on 40 feet as a com-

promise level for the reservoir impoundment, because that would allow the town to draw adequate water supplies from it and would also reduce the pressure against the dam.

There are at least four families living below the impoundment who would be endangered if the dam gave way, George said.

He said the Environmental Management Commission has contacted the National Guard, which has agreed to furnish Marshall with two 5,000-gallon trucks to haul water into the area in the event of a drought or if contamination resulted from lowering the water level. Mayor Lorado Ponder, who has been in ill health for several months and hospitalized several times, contends that the leaks are from the nearby mountain and not from the dam. He stated that he had taken several engineers to the area on various occasions and it was believed that the trouble is definitely with the mountain and not the dam.

Mayor Ponder and others have stated that the leaky condition has been present for many years and the situation is no worse now than it has been for years.

Ponder was backed up in his argument that the dam is not leaking by Bill Johnson, of Columbia, S.C., an engineer with the firm of Wilbur Smith Associates.

"I haven't seen the dam when the water was down, but I have seen it off and on for the past three years and I've yet to see the seepage coming from the dam," Johnson said.

But Johnson said he is confident the answer to the question will be forthcoming, perhaps this week, when he and Marshall officials sit down with a report by still another engineering firm on the situation.

Nick Kmiecza, town planner for Marshall, Hot Springs and Mars Hill, attended the meeting in Raleigh as an observer and did not express a view on the problem with the dam.

The dam is approximately 300 feet in width and 60 feet deep at its greatest depth near the dam.



OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF MARSHALL have started lowering the water level in the reservoir which supplies the town with water in compliance with an order by the N.C. Environmental Management Commission, which contends that the

dam leaks and must be replaced or torn down. Gary Ball, 10, who lives below the dam in the Hunter Creek section, watched the procedure this morning from atop the dam. (Staff Photo by Malcolm Gamble of Citizen - Times.)

Mars Hill Receives Grant Of \$157,250

A \$157,250 grant has been announced by Mars Hill College president Dr. Fred B. Bentley. The grant, from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, is to continue work on the college's competence based curriculum. In making the announcement Dr. Bentley said that the grant is the largest program grant in the school's 118 year history. The grant follows a \$100,000 grant made by Kellogg to the college in 1973.

In accepting the grant, Dr. Bentley said that the two grants "have enabled us to make giant strides in becoming one of the recognized national leaders in the field of competence based

curriculum. It is the hope of Mars Hill College that we will be in a position to assist other institutions who are interested in faculty development, evaluation, and other aspects of such a program. I am extremely pleased that the directors of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation have elected to support the innovations taking place at Mars Hill College."

The grant will be used to implement a faculty development program over a two year period which will be directly related to the college's new academic program. According to academic vice president Dr. Richard Hoffman, who guided the faculty team which for-

mulated the original proposal, "this second grant is a real tribute to the faculty and staff of Mars Hill and, in a large measure, justifies the tremendous work done by the faculty in initiating the competence program. Since the Kellogg Foundation rarely makes a follow-up award, this grant is highly significant."

The funding will also allow the college to participate in national workshops and conferences. In the past year, such exposure has brought college and university officials from across the country to the Mars Hill campus.

The competence based curriculum was introduced on an experimental basis during the 1973-74 school year and on

a curriculum wide basis this past year. In establishing the competence based program, the college has identified certain educational and skill competencies which represent full emotional, intellectual, and psychological development of the student. In contrast to traditional approaches, the new curriculum emphasizes the accountability of the college in the progress of its students.

In announcing the grant to Mars Hill, George Hanson, Kellogg official, said that the foundation was "delighted to be in a position to assist Mars Hill College in this important project."

Dr. David Knisley, professor of History, will

direct the faculty development and competence program. Knisley, a member of the Mars Hill faculty for 15 years, has distinguished himself as a teacher, scholar, and leader of the faculty development program.

Fire Destroys Home

Near Here Friday Night

The one-story frame house, owned by Clinton "Buck" Wilson, and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Bredin located on Bailey's Branch was completely destroyed by fire about 12:30 o'clock Friday

night. All household furnishings and contents were also destroyed.

Cause of the fire is unknown, according to the Marshall firemen, who answered the call.

Final

Lamb Pool

August 5

The final Lamb Pool for the 1975 season will be held on Tuesday, August 5, beginning at 7 a.m. at the Cattleman's Livestock Yard in Canton. All lambs should be brought in not later than 12 noon.

If you have any lambs you wish to sell at this final Lamb pool, contact the Madison County Extension Office at P.O. Box 136 or phone 649-2411 not later than August 1.

Highway Sign

Damage Law

Now In Effect

Anyone willfully damaging or stealing a highway sign now faces a stiff penalty. A new law passed by the 1975 General Assembly, effective July 1, 1975, provides for a penalty of up to \$500 or six months in jail or both for any person found guilty of willfully defacing, damaging, knocking down, or stealing a highway sign.

The new law was prompted in part by a traffic accident last December in Robeson County. Two people were killed in a two-car collision resulting from the removal of a stop sign at the intersection of two Robeson County secondary roads.

HUNDREDS of members of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation spent most of Saturday crowded around the Registration tables at the annual meeting of the Co-Op in the gymnasium of Madison High School. Registrations started at 10 a.m. and completion of registrations was around 6:30 p.m. The slowness of registration was due to the tiresome but necessary check in the Master List of members as each one registered. Proxies also had to be checked, adding to the time-consuming task. Pictures above show the masses of people awaiting registration while the girls of the French Broad EMC had the tiresome and tedious responsibility of handling the registrations for some 8 1/2 hours. Although slow and nerve-racking, peaceful order remained throughout the "all-day meeting" and the patient but tired girls at the desk survived the ordeal.