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Madison Parents Argue Against Red Oak School Assignments

Madison County residents of the Red Oak Elementary School district told the Board of Education here Monday their children would be riding buses for longer periods daily and over unsafe roads if forced to attend schools in Madison.

Madison and the major portion in Buncombe County. When the Red Oak School was built, he said, the former Oak Grove School in Madison County was discontinued. Parents of 16 children attending either Red Oak Elementary or North Buncombe High explained their opposition to an order by the Madison County Board of Education to attend school in their county of residence this

year under questioning of their attorney, Ron C. Brown. Other parents not represented by attorney also were heard by the board and county attorney Ron Howell. The matter will go before Superior Court Judge Bruce Briggs in Mars Hill City Hall at 10 a.m. Saturday on the request by the parents for an order to restrain the Board of Education from transferring

the students. School Supt. Robert L. Edwards indicated informally that the Madison officials will offer evidence that the initiative for the transfer was from Buncombe school officials will offer evidence that the initiative for the transfer was from Buncombe school officials to become effective after the new Madison Consolidated High School opened. Asked about safety of bus routes from the Red Oak area to Madison schools, Edwards said when the question is settled from a legal standpoint that the principals of the affected Madison schools would establish bus routes. He said the school system has been ordered by state officials not to use three bridges in Madison County as bus routes, including one on the Ivy Road

which the parents at the hearing objected to as very hazardous because of its narrow width and three ton weight limit. Claudia Green, the leadoff speaker at the hearing, which was 45 minutes late in getting started awaiting the board

attorney, said were her children transferred to Madison schools, it would take "at least an hour to an hour and a half" for their ride to and from school as compared to about half an hour each way to Red Oak and North Buncombe. She said her son in-

tended to go to college and wanted to get his diploma at North Buncombe which is accredited. She reported on route checks made with a school bus that had been converted to a camper, and discussed in detail road hazards of certain

routes. Mrs. Paul Roberts said of the roads leading to Madison schools "I'm not safe to let alone a school bus. I protested that the board would have to do it by daylight and set it in the dark.

Mrs. Wanda Reed declared the narrow Sproutstown Road is suicide. Howell said that the School Board would give individual attention to every child's request for permission to seek a transfer in the Buncombe County.

Election Officials Named In Madison

The Madison County Board of Elections appointed Tuesday, of last week, new registrars and judges in eight of the county's 10 precincts. A boundary dispute has deferred the other appointments. In Laurel Precinct, Walter Gosnell was named registrar, and Clarence E. Cutshall and John D. Ray as GOP and Democratic judges, respectively. In other precincts the appointees are: Mars Hill, Dr. Larry N. Stern, registrar; Mrs. Cecelia C. Powell and Lewis (Woody) Ammons, judges; Grapevine, Harold Payne, registrar, Mrs. Betty Lou Clark and Bruce Sprinkle, judges; Beech Glen, Don Hall, registrar; Ronnie Jarvis

and Jimmy Carter, judges; Walnut, J. Dedrick Brown, registrar, Joe Fowler and David Caldwell, judges; Hot Springs, Hoy I. Roberts, registrar, Curtis H. Roberts and Mrs. Bernice Wright, judges; Ebbs Chapel, Clarence Gody, registrar, George Davis and Frank Fox, judges, and Spring Creek, Mrs. Betty W. Rollins, registrar, Larry W. Ferguson and Larry W. Plemons, judges. Action was deferred on the appointment of precinct officials in Marshall and Sandy Mush pending a hearing at 10 a.m. Aug. 18 in Superior Court in Marshall. Judge Bruce Briggs has issued a restraining order on ap-

pointment of election officials until a determination is made relative to the boundary line of the two precincts.



THE MADISON COUNTY HOUSING TOUR last Friday attracted 85 participants from Madison, McDowell, Buncombe, and Henderson Counties, also Georgia and Florida. The tour sponsored by the Extension Service provided an opportunity for families to gain knowledge in home design, material selection, and home furnishings.

231 More Plants Of Marijuana Found In County

Sheriff E. Y. Ponder and deputies continue to discover marijuana in Madison County. The latest "find" occurred Monday when 107 plants were confiscated and brought into Marshall. 87 plants were found in the Hamburg section of Paint Fork Road and 20 plants found in the Sams Gap section of this county.

Market value of the plants was estimated at \$2,000. In addition to the above captures, 124 plants were confiscated last Friday in the Paw Paw section of Little Pine. No arrests were made as of Monday night. Ponder stated that future raids are planned in various parts of the county.

Republicans Announce Dates For Precinct Meetings, Convention

William P. Powell, County GOP Chairman, announced the dates and other information concerning precinct meetings and the county convention, as follows: PRECINCT MEETINGS. Notice is herein given that each Precinct Chairman shall call a meeting on August 21, 1975 at 2 p.m. at their respective polling place to conduct the following business and any other party, matter that be needed: 1. Elect a precinct committee of five (or more) voters, one of whom shall be

elect a Chairman and one as Vice Chairman of the opposite sex, and one as Secretary. These members so elected shall hold their places for two years or until their successors are chosen. NOTE: In electing this committee, please keep in mind that our NC Legislature was good enough to amend the State Elections Laws so that no person who is a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, precinct chairman, vice-chairman, committeeman or other officer of any political party shall be eligible to serve as a registrar or judge of election. Therefore, the registrar and judge in your precinct cannot serve on the Precinct Committee, but can be elected delegates to the County, District and/or State Conventions.

2. The Precinct Chairman and Secretary shall certify the election of the above officers and members along with a list of elected delegates and alternates to the County Convention on the enclosed forms and shall mail or hand carry this "precinct Credentials Form" to Mr. Walter Harrell, Secretary, Madison B.O.P., Box 68, Marshall, N.C. 28753 on or before Saturday, September 13, 1975.

3. Each Precinct shall elect the following number of delegates and a like number of alternates to represent them at the county convention to be held in Marshall, at the Court House, 2 p.m. Saturday Sept. 20, 1975: Marshall - 13& 13, Sandy Mush - 1& 1, Laurel - 9& 9, Mars Hill - 12& 12, Grapevine - 5& 5, Beech Glen - 7& 7, Walnut - 8& 8, Hot Springs - 4& 4, Ebbs Chapel - 7& 7, Spring Creek - 3& 3.

WNC Vote Fraud Charged

Widespread voting irregularities, including vote-buying and absentee ballot abuse, reportedly occurred in the 1974 election in four North Carolina mountain counties where such violations 12 years ago resulted in changes in state election laws. The Charlotte Observer says it has uncovered indications of vote fraud in the counties of Clay, Madison, Ashe and Yancey.

In Madison County, official envelopes containing absentee ballots were returned to county election officials bearing signatures not even vaguely resembling those of the voter's registration cards, the newspaper said. Forty such ballots were challenged as forgeries on election day. Also, two Madison County men were arrested six weeks prior to the election on vote buying charges by the State Bureau of Investigation but a grand jury failed to return an indictment. The SBI also was sent to Madison to investigate alleged forgeries of absentee ballot applications, written requests for applications and ballot envelopes. No action was ever taken as a result of the probe. County Dist. Atty. Clyde Roberts said, "I don't know that I've even got a report."

Alex Brock, executive secretary of the state Elections Board said the state has eliminated most of the trouble spots in voting irregularities. He said he is confident of the integrity of the election systems in 1974 but conceded that there are loopholes.

Powell Resigns As County GOP Chairman

The following item received for publication this week is self-explanatory: TO: Madison County G.O.P. Executive Committee FROM: William P. Powell, Chairman RE: Resignation I, William P. Powell, Chairman of the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee, do herein resign this position to become effective September 20, 1975.



WILLIAM P. POWELL having to make excuses for what is or has happened in our county, state and nation. I want to express my THANKS to all the good people who have helped in the past and I pledge to work just as hard as possible for the new party chairman that you will elect on September 20. Sincerely, William P. Powell

I am making this known now so that you can appoint a nominating committee or act in this capacity yourselves to make for an open County Convention. These past two years (as County Chairman) have been different - to say the least. They have had their ups and downs. The whole Republican Party (National, State and Local)... One of these days soon, I feel that the "UPS" will outnumber the "DOWNS" and we will be proud to say that we are MADISON COUNTY REPUBLICANS without

County First In WNC To Adopt Land Use Ordinances

The Madison County Commission has adopted Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for the entire county. After public hearings and extended deliberations, the Commission approved the ordinances at its regular August meeting. Mr. James Ledford, chairman of the Commission, stated that the Commissioners were concerned to protect the land and human resources of the county. The Ordinance does not regulate the use of farm land. However, any non-farm use of land must conform to the uses permitted in the ordinance. Several members of the Madison County Planning Board, who developed and recommended the ordinances.

The main provisions of the Ordinances will be outlined in future articles in the News-Record. Information on the ordinances may be received by calling Mr. Ed Ramsey at 649-3766.

Slaying Defendent Found Not Guilty

A verdict of acquittal was reached by a Buncombe Superior Court jury Friday, and Judge James M. Baley Jr. discharged Kenneth Neil Maxwell, 39, of Rt. 3, Weaverville. The four day trial on the charge of second degree murder involved the death of

Truman Wyatt, 44, of Rt. 6, Marshall on Feb. 26, 1974. Wyatt was shot as he stood with Maxwell at the edge of U.S. 19-23. The large group of spectators at the trial broke into applause which ceased as Judge Baley called for order.

Women's Softball Tournney Here

The Marshall Lions Club is sponsoring an Invitational Women's Slow Pitch Softball Tournament on the Island Saturday and Sunday. Teams expected to participate will be from Madison, Buncombe, Haywood and perhaps other counties, it was announced. The first game of the tournament will get underway at 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning with games continuing throughout the day and also on Saturday night. The final rounds will be played on Sunday with the first game scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. Roger Wood, who is coordinating the tourney, stated that pairings are not yet made so competing teams cannot be announced in time for this issue. Large crowds are expected to see the outstanding teams in action on both days.

receives Degrees At WCU Friday. Four Madison County students received master's degrees during summer commencement exercises Friday (August 8) at Western Carolina University. Marshall graduates include Barbara Ann Knowles, R.I., with the master of arts in education degree in guidance and counseling; and Kathy Anne McCormick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McCormick, with the master of arts in education degree in middle grade education. Graduates from Mars Hill are Joyce Hunter Sheop, daughter of Mrs. Vianna Hunter, the master of arts in education degree in middle grade education; and Neil Smith Jr., the master of arts in education degree in guidance and counseling. Also graduating were Mary Lillian Humphrey of Daytona Beach, Fla., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tolley, of Hot Springs, the master of arts in education degree in audiovisual education; Barbara Wilde Peak of Skyland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Wilde of Rt. 5, Marshall, the master of arts in education degree in early childhood education; and Fred E. Tranthan Jr. of Ft. Springs, the master of arts in education degree in audiovisual education.



PETERS BRANNON ANGEL ATTENDING THE National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 20th Anniversary Celebration in St. Louis, Mo., recently was international Opera Star Roberta Peters, of New York, the C-F Foundation's National Chairman; Little Miss Allison Brannon, of Houston, Texas, the C-F National Poster Child; and Dr. Grover L. Angel, of Mars Hill, National C-F Vice-president and Chairman of the National C-F Board of Trustees. Dr. Angel was last year given a plaque by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Chapter of the C-F Foundation "in appreciation for 20 years of dedicated service to Cystic Fibrosis." In 1973 the National Foundation presented Dr. Angel with an award for distinguished service as Chairman of a national-international medical lay conference on Cystic Fibrosis held in Washington, D.C. and attended by more than a thousand delegates from every state and 15 foreign countries. An organization meeting to form a Madison County Branch of the N.C. C-F Chapter will be held in the Mars Hill Elementary School Cafeteria, Thursday, August 14, 1975 at 8 p.m.