

# THE NEWS - RECORD

Volume 74, Number 32.

Marshall, N.C.

15 CENTS PER COPY

September 4, 1975

## Madison County Schools Loaned Buses By State

Two extra school buses will be supplied Madison County by state officials to solve an emergency situation brought on by the closing of a bus route of a bridge serving the Big Pine area, Supt. Robert Edwards said Tuesday of last week.

The County Board of Education made the request following a meeting with Big Pine residents at the Marshall school earlier Tuesday.

Edwards said that Louis Alexander, head of the Transportation Division, State Department of Public Instruction, agreed that a state of emergency existed. Alexander approved the loan of two buses so children from Big Pine could walk across the bridge, be picked up by a second bus, and taken by a much shorter route to their school.

Edwards said the school system transportation supervisor, Ed Gentry, will pick up the additional buses Wednesday, and the new service will start no later than Monday.

Edwards said that three busloads of students, 90 to 115, were affected by the closing of the Barnard Bridge over French Broad River some two miles west of Walnut. To avoid

the unsafe bridge, elementary students had to travel 28 miles - instead of the direct four miles - to Walnut Elementary School; while Madison High School students had to travel six miles more.

The Barnard Bridge was one of three Department of Transportation officials told Madison schools to stop using last April 24, Edwards said. Another was the Palmer Ford bridge over the Ivy River which has isolated the Bend of Ivy area and caused several Madison residents to attend the Red Oak School in Buncombe County.

Following the session with the large group of parents and others from Big Pine, Madison school officials conferred with the DOT bridge maintenance superintendent for the west, H.K. Stalleup of Forest City, and Jack Abbott of Sen Robert Morgan's Asheville office.

"They said it would be two years or longer before the Barnard Bridge could be replaced," Edwards said, after which the board authorized the superintendent to contact Alexander for the additional buses.

The board also went on record, Edwards said, to advise the Department of Transportation of the urgent need to build new highways from Weaverville to Marshall and from Marshall to Spring Creek - as had been promised during the administration of former Governor Scott - so that Madison school officials will have safe highways on which to bring pupils to school.



THE 1975 MADISON HIGH SCHOOL "PATRIOTS" are pictured above. Front row: Sidney Hunter, John Deaver, Joe Walker, David Hunter, Bill Henderson, Tim Burnette, Doug Green, Burton Fox, Arthur Hensley, David Carter; second row: Mark Joyner, Ricky Hoyle, Terrell McGough, Kent McPeters, Chris Robinson.

Ronnie Rice, David Jones, Larry Peek, Roger Allen, Ricky Ingle; third row: Ricky Allen, Craig McDaris, Randy Hodge, Allen English, Jerry Ramsey, Ricky Ingram, Gene Clark, Bobby Jamerson, Bobby Jack Chandler, Pat McNulty. (Photo by John Campbell)

## Defendant Escapes By Leaping From Courthouse Window

Strange things often happen during court terms but one of the most unusual incidents occurred Wednesday morning of last week about 9:30 o'clock when Michael Thomas, 24, of Marshall, jumped from a window in the Sheriff's Office on the second story of the courthouse while his case was in progress. He landed about 21 feet down on the ground between the courthouse and, presumably not injured by the jump, fled to parts unknown before anyone realized what he had done.

According to Sheriff Ponder, Thomas is suspected of breaking, entering and larceny at Radio Station WMMH on Wednesday night. It is thought that whoever entered the station decided to have a change of clothes, some food to eat, and about \$30 in cash. Thomas is charged with breaking, entering and lar-

ceny of Roberts Pharmacy, Health Center, Ramsey's Auto Parts, J & J Tire Co., and the Madison County School

Garage. As this issue goes to press, Thomas has not been apprehended.

## Grand Jury Report

Honorable Judge John R. Friday  
Superior Court Judge  
27th Judicial District  
P.O. Box 371  
Lincolnton, N.C. 28092

Upon your request a committee from the Grand Jury inspected the following buildings: the Madison County Jail and the Madison County Court House.

An over-all picture of the jail is as follows:

1. Cells, hallways and reception room were very neat and clean.

2. Mr. Grindstaff, Chief Deputy, was courteous and

helpful. 3. The following prisoners were interviewed: David Lingerfelt, Michael Thomas and Jerry Boone. Their consensus was that their treatment had been good.

4. Upon inspection of the kitchen we found that some changes could be made.

A. The floor needs cleaning.

B. It needs better lighting.

5. There was no criticism of the court house.

This is the findings of the committee on August 28, 1975.

-Harold D. Anderson  
Foreman of the Grand Jury

## Tolley Replaces Darlington As Manager Of French Broad EMC

The French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, with headquarters in Marshall, announced that at its organizational meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Membership held on July 19, 1975, the following officers were elected. John O. Corbett of Madison County, President; Novile Hawkins of Madison County, Vice President; W. G. Plemmons of Buncombe County, Treasurer; J.E. Clevenger of Yancey County, Secretary; James W. Ray of Yancey County, Assistant Secretary. President John O. Corbett announced today that John A. Darlington, Manager, has tendered his resignation as Manager of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, effective as of August 28, 1975.

The resignation was accepted by the Board.

Charles Tolley was appointed Acting Manager, effective as of August 29, 1975.

Mr. Tolley is a native of Madison County, and a graduate of Mars Hill High School. He graduated from Clemson University with a BS Degree in Electrical Engineering. He was a member of the Clemson Tigers varsity football team where he was a backfield star for three years (1969-71). He served in the Armed Forces,



CHARLES TOLLEY

attached to the 18th Airborne Corp and later the 160th Signal Group, and saw service in

Vietnam. He is married to the former Sandra Landers. They have a 4-month-old daughter.

President Corbett stated that usual procedures would be carried out for the selection of a Manager, in accordance with the Rural Electrification Administration requirements.

The French Broad Electric Membership Corporation is one of 28 Rural Electrification Co-ops in N.C. It serves more than 16,000 members in Madison, Yancey, parts of Buncombe, and Mitchell Counties in N.C., and a portion of Unicoi County, Tenn.

LOVEN REPLACES  
YELTON  
The Board of Directors of

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation announces the appointment of Mr. Bill Loven as District Manager of the Burnsville Division of French Broad EMC. Mr. Loven replaces Mr. C.I. Yelton who retired as District Manager of August 1, 1975.

Mr. Loven is a native of Mitchell County and graduated from Bowman High School. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College with a B.S. degree in Mathematics and Physics. He has been employed by French Broad EMC for the past five years and has served as Director of Member Relations and District Engineer. He and his wife, Ann, and their two sons reside in Bakersville, N.C.

The Patriots first opponent will be the North Buncombe Hawks. Last season the Patriots played their home games at Meares Stadium at Mars Hill College. Although the new stadium here isn't "complete", it is ready for the game.

Dennis Hefner, an assistant last season, is head coach of the Patriots this season. Assisting Hefner will be Ronnie Wallin (quarterbacks and ends), John Fisher (offensive and defensive lines), and Wayne McDevitt (backfield).

The Patriots have only 35 players on the roster but should improve on last season's record of one victory and nine defeats.

Coach Hefner has only eight lettermen returning and must depend on inexperienced boys (sophomores) at the all-important quarterback position.

"What we lack in experience and depth we hope to make up in hustle, fundamentals and execution", Hefner said.

Burton Fox will head the captains of the team, assisted by Tim Burnette, Doug Green and Kent McPeters.

"The Patriots will run basically from the 'I' formation," Hefner stated.

Following is a list of players with their weights:

ENDS: Roger Allen, 145; Johnny Chandler, 145; Gene Clark, 150; Alan English, 150;

## Madison Band To Perform At Game

Bill Stell, band director at Madison High school, announced this week that the band would perform at the North Buncombe - Madison

football game here Friday night.

"Since we do not have enough uniforms for all 48 members of the band, we have decided not to wear the uniforms we have," Stell said.

He pointed out that the Beta Omega Sorority has contributed about \$5,600 for uniforms but still need some \$2,400 to dress the entire band. A walk-a-thon is slated for September 20 to help raise uniform funds. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

The high school band members and the director are to be congratulated for being prepared to march this Friday night, since the band has been in existence for only one year.

In addition to playing the National Anthem before the kickoff at 8 p.m., the band will also perform at halftime.



RUNNER-UP Teacher of the Year in Buncombe County is Mrs. Jessie May Lunsford Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sams, of Marshall. Mrs. Cole teaches a contained class at Johnston, exchanging students for reading only. Her teaching methods are distinguished by her use of colorful special events related to the subject being taught. She began teaching the metric system last spring and had three county winners in the elementary division of a metric system poster contest. The state winner was a member of her class. Mrs. Cole has a B.S. degree in education and psychology from Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn. She graduated from Marshall High School in 1957.

## Flea Market

The women of the Calvary Baptist Church will sponsor a flea market, Saturday, Sept. 13 at the old Church building on Bailey Street above the Mars Hill elementary school.

Proceeds will be used to complete the picnic area and the work around the church.

Those wishing to contribute may contact Mrs. David Stanton, Telephone number 689-4819 or Mrs. Hubert Rich 689-3636.

Come for some useful items and good buys. Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Magazine Sale

Members of the Junior Class of Madison High School are currently having their annual magazine sale.

The public is urged to assist by purchasing magazines.

## Decoration

There will be a decoration at the Price and Gump Cemetery on Ammons Branch this Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Those having relatives and friends buried there are urged to attend.

## Barn Destroyed By Fire Here

A two-story barn near the home of Buford Marler here was destroyed by fire caused by lightning on Wednesday afternoon of last week.

The barn belonged to C.D. Bowman and was used by Clifford Oley for storing hay. An estimated 350 bales of hay was destroyed also.

## Criminal Court Adjourned Friday; Sentences Imposed

The August term of superior court for the trial of criminal cases which started on Monday of last week adjourned Friday at noon. Judge John R. Friday presided at the term with District Attorney Clyde M. Roberts representing the state.

In addition to the trials, a defendant escaped Wednesday morning when he leaped from the window in the sheriff's office in the courthouse. (Story elsewhere in this issue.)

Results and judgments rendered during the term include:

Ronnie Dale Baker, racing, suspended sentence, payment of fine and costs.

Paul Clarence Chandler, DUI, mistrial.

Earl Eugene Chandler, DUI & RD, fine and costs.

Minors Winston Lloyd, guilty reckless driving.

Roy Rubin Rice, DUI, suspended sentence.

Lawrence Landon Taylor, failing to heed blue light and siren, fine and costs. Improper passing and reckless driving, fine and costs.

Ted Vask Buckner, DUI, jury verdict, not guilty.

John Daniel Norton, guilty reckless driving; DWLR not pressed.

Jessie Bishop, (first charge), BE&L Laurel school Dec. 22, 1974, 7-10 years, State Dept. Corrections, (second charge), feloniously BE&L Laurel School, Dec. 24, 1974, 3-5 years, suspended for 3 years after serving sentence.

Odus Searcy, BE&L (first charge) 4-7 years active sentence in Youthful Offenders Camp; (second charge) 3-5 years suspended.

Edwin Dewey Hensley, DUI, pleaded guilty, fine and costs.

Roy Bishop, BE&L, 3-5 years, Youthful Offenders Camp.

David Lingerfelt, BE&L, 3-5 years, Youthful Offenders Camp; 3-5 years suspended under probation on second charge.

Arthur Lee Sparks, BE&L, referred to Bakersville.

Linda Thomas Sharp, forgery, pleaded guilty, restitution and payment of costs; on second charge, 24 months suspended sentence for five years.

Carroll Anderson, State ABC Law violation, acquitted by jury.

41 cases on the docket were continued.

## Election Officials Attend Seminar

Madison County election officials attended an Elections Seminar in Greensboro at the Royal Villa recently.

Recent election law changes and the conduct of County and Municipal elections were discussed by Mr. Hugh M. Wilson, Chairman of the State Board of Elections; Mr. James Wallace, an associate in the Attorney General's office, Mr. Alex K. Bryck, Director of the State Board of

Elections, and Mr. Rod Tumball of the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. Among those attending the seminar from Madison County were Perry G. Willis, Joe L. Morgan, and Edward T. Gentry. Members of the Madison County Board of Elections; Mrs. Pauline R. Dittmore, Chairman of the Madison Municipal Board of Elections; and Miss Sharon L. Ray, Executive Secretary of

the County Bd. of Elections. Mrs. Rosemary Stone, Deputy Director of the State Board of Elections, elaborated on the complexities and ramifications of the Campaign Reporting and Finance Act.

County and Municipal board members from throughout the state attended the Seminar which was preceded by a reception for all election personnel.

See More Pictures  
On Pages 2 and 3



DAN NORTON, 65-year-old farmer of the Grapevine section, is shown holding two stalks of tobacco which measure over 7 feet tall. Dan says he has an acre of tobacco with stalks ranging from 6 to over 7 feet tall.

## Farm Credit Stockholders To Meet

More than 400 farmers, growers, ranchers and rural home owners are expected at the National Guard Armory on Brevard Road in Asheville on September 6 for the Annual Stockholders Meeting of The Farm Credit Service of Asheville.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with Wade Huey, of Marshall, chairman of Mountain Production Credit Association, presiding. The calendar of events include the annual report on the Association's progress by Jacob F. Grigg, president, the election of three directors, nominating committee and a report of the Board of Directors of inspection officers

taken during the year. There will be a drawing for several prize prizes and three grand prizes. A special program will be provided by a country and western band and a performance by Mrs. Raleigh V. English's Band Mountain Chuggers from Mars Hill. In addition to chairman, Wade Huey of Mountain Production Credit Association, and W. Mark Rogers, chairman of The Federal Land Bank Association of Asheville, the other directors include: Henry F. C. Hill, III, president of the Asheville Chapter of the National Farm Credit Association; and W. J. Hill, Jr., president of the Asheville Chapter of the National Farm Credit Association.