

# THE NEWS - RECORD

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## School Teachers Are Found Guilty Of Falsification

By ED SPEARS  
Citizen Staff Writer

A former principal and five teachers were found guilty Tuesday of last week in Madison County District Court of falsifying pupil enrollment and attendance records.

Each was fined \$50 and costs, and faces possible revocation of teaching certificate.

Three other teachers among the nine tried in a consolidated case - Martha Kirkpatrick, Lois C. Moore and Lucille R. Chandler - were found not guilty by Judge Robert H. Lacey of Newland.

Charges against Mrs. Jewel Church, facing similar charges, were carried over for trial at a later date, according to Asst. Dist. Atty. James T. Rusher. Mrs. Church recently obtained a temporary injunction against the Madison County Board of Education barring it from discharging her from her principalship.

Convicted, with 10 days in which to decide whether to appeal to a higher court, were Larry S. Plemmons, Mattie Ray Ramsey, Vera B. Sumerel, Elizabeth Staude, Isabel B. Maynard and Frances Lee Ramsey. At the

request of the four attorneys employed by the defendants, time for paying the fine was extended to Jan. 15, 1976.

The nine were charged with padding enrollment figures in the 1974-75 academic year at the Hot Springs and Spring Creek elementary schools by a total of 72 pupils - some described by state witnesses as being fictional names, others allegedly being names of former students who had moved from the school district.

James E. Rice, pupil accounting supervisor for the State Board of Education, testified that Plemmons, asked in April about discrepancies in the size of the sixth grade at Spring Creek as compared to the fifth grade the year before, admitted that there had been record alterations.

Rice said that Plemmons, in a second visit four days later, handed him a written statement spelling out the specific instances of made-up students, 24 in all and including 19 Plemmons had recorded himself. Rice said Plemmons gave him the office files of the fictional children.

Also introduced as evidence were the 38 records of non-attending students at Hot Springs Elementary.

SBI Agent Robert Thomas, testifying that he interviewed all defendants between June

14 and June 19 in a follow up of the Rice investigation said that Mrs. Kirkpatrick told him that her records were correct.

This was the basis for her attorney's argument that she be found not guilty. The attorney for the other cleared defendants, Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Moore, argued that the state did not identify the specific individuals whose records they allegedly falsified.

The FBI agent said several other defendants admitted padding, and said they had been instructed by their principal, Mrs. Church, to make sure their class enrollment did not fall from the previous year during a faculty meeting in August of 1974.

Lois Moore, a teacher with 31 years experience, was quoted by Thomas as telling him this was the first time she ever had padded records. Mrs. Moore was said to have been told to do so by Mrs. Church, and later when four of her early enrollees were transferred to a special education class, she kept them on her second grade rolls as well; also added two other names selected from files of children who had moved away. Mrs. Moore was said to have told Thomas she was advised that her teaching position would be lost if attendance totals declined.

Quizzed by the judge as to what benefits it was to the teachers to pad the rolls, attorney Lamar Gudger observed that there was no direct benefit other than that the action might avert the loss of a teaching position at their school. Plemmons was said to have commented to Rice that he decided on the padding because he didn't want the quality of schooling to drop.

Rice explained that teacher allocations are based on "average daily membership in the best consecutive six months of the first seven months of the prior year" - either the first through sixth months or second through



HALLOWEEN COSTUME WINNERS selected at the Mars Hill Girl Scout Neighborhood carnival last Friday were (left to right) Lisa Anderson, Junior Scout, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Anderson, Jr.; and Gwen Mahy, Cadette, and Charis Mahy, Brownie, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Don Mahy.

## Halloween Carnival At Mars Hill Successful

It was Halloween and the birthday of Juliet Lowe, founder of the Girl Scouts, and the fellowship hall of the Mars Hill Baptist Church was alive with activity as the Mars Hill Neighborhood of Girl Scouts of America celebrated both occasions last Friday afternoon with a fund-raising carnival.

Girl Scouts and leaders, parents and younger brothers and sisters, all joined in an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship which proved to be a highly successful fund-raising effort for the Girl Scout World Friendship Fund in honor of the late Mrs. Lowe.

About fifty Girl Scouts, representing the Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes, were costumed for the carnival which began with the costume judging in the three age-group categories by Mrs. Jill Prior of Mars Hill. Lisa Anderson was judged best in the Junior category for successfully carrying out the "little old lady" theme with her costume. Sisters, Gwen and Charis Mahy, were judged best in Cadette and Brownie age groups, with their costumes representing a

haunted house and "the organ grinder."

Carnival booths included penny pitching, apple bobbing, bean bag tossing, fishing pond and fortune telling. The Spook Room proved to be a very popular attraction. It was very ably run by Mars Hill College students Dennis Daniel and Jack Sells assisted by local Girl Scout Watchers Roger Buckner, Paul Osteen, Philip Bentley and Travis Smith.

Mars Hill Neighborhood is grateful to the leaders of their Girl Scouts who week by week give of their time, efforts and talents in working with this large group of girls. Mrs. Fay Ball, Brownie Leader, is assisted by Mrs. Judy Eatmon and Miss Sue Worley. Junior Leaders include Mrs. Ethel Gibson, Mrs. Caroline Osteen and Mrs. Margaret Tilson, assisted by Mrs. Dahlia Newton and Mrs. Diane Randolph. The Cadette leaders are Mrs. Lynn Steen and Mrs. Diane Renfrow who are very ably assisted by their husbands. All of these leaders look to Mrs. Doris Bentley, Vice President of the Pisgah Girl Scout Council, and other

members of the Council staff for leadership and assistance.

Mothers who assisted the carnival included Mrs. Alice Mahy, Mrs. Edith Lunsford, Mrs. Gladys Ball, Mrs. Catherine Tweed, Mrs. JoAnne Johnson, Mrs. Pat Smith, Mrs. Joyce Thomason, Mrs. Brenda Anglin and Mrs. Doris Bentley. Many other mothers also provided candy, cookies, cupcakes, hot dogs, drinks and other items which made the carnival so successful.

Troop leaders wish to express appreciation to every person who contributed in any way to the carnival. "Let's do it again next year" echoed through the hall as the last cleaning up was completed and the treasurer announced the results of the fun-filled fund-raising effort!

ASHEVILLE - Tom L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District Assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, is now making scheduled visits to the county seats and other sections of the counties.

On Wednesday, November 12, he will be at the Madison County Courthouse, Marshall, from 9:30-10:30, at the Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, from 1-2 and at the Town Hall, Spruce Pine, from 3-4 p.m.

Any person who has plans or official business pertaining to Congressional matters is invited to meet with Mr. Mallonee at the above-specified times.



MARSHALL DAY CARE youngsters are pictured above as they toured the town last Friday enjoying "trick or treat." They were accompanied by Day Care personnel.

## November Vote Set For 'Nickels For Know-How'

RALEIGH - An unusual program with an unusual name - "Nickels for Know-How" - will be up for renewal in a statewide referendum Nov. 25.

Under the program, feed and fertilizer users contribute five cents per ton of these materials sold to support agricultural research, teaching and extension education at North Carolina State University.

About \$170,000 is collected annually through the plan, which has been in operation since 1962. The funds have been used for projects related to essentially every farm commodity produced in the state, in addition to many projects concerned with family living and consumer-related activities.

NBCS officials said "Nickels" proceeds are used to meet new problems and other emergency needs more quickly than would be possible with state appropriated funds.

The self-help assessment program must be renewed each six years through statewide referendum, and a available vote by two-thirds of those voting ballots is required for continuation of the plan.

Filling places and voting forms are being announced weekly in each county. No advance registration is required, and votes may be cast at the most convenient location. Voters will be asked to sign an election roster to vote duplicate ballots.

All persons who use feed or fertilizer, including lawn and garden fertilizers, and owners of their families are eligible to vote.

The first "Nickels for Know-How" referendum was held in November, 1961. In that and 11 subsequent referendums held over the past 14 years, over 98 percent of those casting ballots have voted in favor of the program.

Ballots are collected at the manufacturer level and are returned to the price of feed and fertilizer sold at retail. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture collects

the money without charge and turns it over to the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation.

The Foundation's board of directors, with one representative from each county, determines how the funds are spent. Upon recommendations from

NCSU's Dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with the prior approval of the NCSU Chancellor and the President of the University System, the board of directors either approves or disapproves requests for "Nickels" funds.

Low bids totaling \$92,953 were counted at the bid opening in Mars Hill Friday on the planned new fire station for Mars Hill, Mayor William P. Powell reported.

The figures, he said, are close to the amount anticipated and probably will be accepted by town officials in the next two weeks. There was competitive bidding on all

phases of the project, with nine companies seeking the general contract.

Low bids were submitted as follows: general, Duyck Construction Co. of Weaverville, \$77,600; plumbing, Rogers Heating & Plumbing of Asheville, \$4,300; heating, Dotson Plumbing & Heating Co. of Asheville, \$6,653; and electrical, Hyatt Electric Co. of Asheville, \$4,400.

J. Bertram King of Asheville is architect for the project, to be built on a Main Street lot donated by Mars Hill College. The project was supported 196 to 7 in a bond referendum held in September.

Hot Springs Store Being Remodeled

The Carolina Super Market at Hot Springs, which was damaged by fire recently, is being remodeled and will soon be open for business.

Most of the damage from the flames was in the inside of the store, it was reported.

Jackie Ramsey Home Destroyed By Fire

The one-story brick home of Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Ramsey and family on Walnut Creek at the mouth of Heck Creek was completely destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning of last week.

Loss of the two-year-old residence and contents was estimated between \$25,000-\$30,000.

The blaze was discovered about 3 a.m. by Mrs. R. E. Wild, a sister-in-law of Mr. Ramsey who lives about a mile from the Ramsey home. She was awakened by a glow in the sky caused by the fire. The Marshall firemen and two trucks were on the scene

within 10 minutes but the roof had already collapsed and the building was an inferno.

All contents were destroyed.

Fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey and two children were not at home at the time of the fire, but were at a relative's home due to illness.

YOUTH REVIVAL AT MARS HILL

A Youth revival, led by the Mars Hill College Youth Team, will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Mars Hill on November 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 18 from 9-12 to 12 noon.

Special attention is called to November 7. Come hear "The Pilgrim" musical group. Overnight retreat afterwards. Bring sleeping bag. Event under adult supervision.

For a copy of "Home in Madison County," contact your local bookstore or East Tennessee State University's Research Council. The price is only \$2.95.

Sunday Night Singing

The regular 2nd Sunday night singing will be held this Sunday at the Alexander Baptist Church beginning at 7 p.m.

All singers and listeners are invited. Dennis Parris will be in charge.

282 Voted In Marshall

HOT SPRINGS For Mayor

Joe B. Henderson Incumbent 211  
Write In Vote For F. E. Smith 31

For Alderman

Harold Anderson Incumbent 191  
E. B. "Gene" Autry Incumbent 127  
Jerry Ramsey Incumbent 115  
Tony Gamble 74  
Leroy Johnson 38  
Claude Moore 100  
George K. "Red" Ramsey 94

MARS HILL For Mayor

William P. Powell Incumbent 308  
Frederick Anderson Incumbent 139  
For Alderman  
Carl Eller Incumbent 277  
Arthur Wood Incumbent 266  
Gordon Randolph Incumbent 233  
Ralph H. Lee 120  
Freddie Holcomb 107