



Ponder Faction Wins At Democratic Convention; Phillips Faction Appeals

By JAY HENSLEY
Citizen-Times Staff Writer

The Ponder delegation from Hot Springs was seated at the Madison County Democratic Convention here Saturday after heated debate over the disputed election last month in Precinct No. 6.

Larry Phillips, a school teacher who contested the Hot Springs precinct election Feb. 12, said he plans to carry the fight to the North Carolina Democratic Convention in Raleigh June 12.

Phillips argued at the county convention here Saturday that the vote for his slate at Hot Springs last month of 146 to 135 for one supported by Bobby Ponder reflected the majority feeling of Democrats in Precinct No. 6 there.

Ponder, a Hot Springs hardware dealer and a member of the Madison County school board, contended that Phillips had voted 53 persons who were not "active Democrats" and therefore not eligible to take part in the precinct election.

Ponder said the 53 persons he challenged Feb. 12 included switchover Republicans, out-of-state residents and people not registered as Democrats.

Zeno Ponder, Madison County Democratic party chairman and uncle of Bobby Ponder, brought in Miss Sharon Ray, executive secretary of the Republican-controlled county board to verify the registration of the disputed precinct meeting participants.

Out of the 53, a total of 29 had never been registered before - or at least there was no record of their registration, Miss Ray said. She said seven had switched within a few days of the precinct meeting from Republican to Democrat, and that one of the seven had already switched back to Republican.



BOBBY PONDER
...speaks out

English on the back here for switching over from the Republican party. And since when has the Democrat party

frowned upon registering new people?" Phillips said.

Zeno Ponder had earlier in the convention introduced English of the Ebbs Chapel Township as a switcher who is leading the drive here for the nomination of Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt for governor.

The Madison County Democratic establishment has endorsed Hunt for governor, and English praised him as the man who will bring more progress, in the way of roads and other benefits, to the county "in the next four years than we have seen in the last 44 years."

"We are trying to build the party," Phillips insisted. "We are not trying to split the party."

"We only ask for your just consideration. We don't want anything that is not ours. But we want what is due us," Phillips told the convention.



LARRY PHILLIPS
...loses in Madison

Bobby Ponder, who had presided at the Hot Springs precinct meeting for Howard Tino, the chairman, acted as spokesman for the group Saturday over protests from the Phillips faction. Tino's delegates were seated on a vote of 26 to 135-6 by the rest of the convention.

Zeno Ponder won re-election as county party chairman in a contest with Bruce Phillips, brother of Larry Phillips, 44 2-3 to 10 1/2 delegate votes.

Backed by the Phillips as well as the Ponder factions, other officers and delegates to the district and state conventions were elected unanimously. They are:

Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, first vice chairman; Yates Ward, second vice chairman; Mrs. Jean Huffman, third vice chairman; Mrs. Jena Lee Buckner, secretary; and David Caldwell, treasurer.

Forest Fires, Brush Fires Damaging In County

The number of brush fires in Western North Carolina dropped Friday as the air cooled and burning permits were revoked, but 42 acres of private and U.S. Forest Service land in the Shelton Laurel area of Madison County was burned in a fire that started in the predawn hours.

O. Thomas Wynne, district forester for the state Forest Service, said state and federal personnel worked until late afternoon to contain the blaze, which was believed to have been set.

It was the biggest blaze of a period of several days during which brush fires, aided by hot, dry weather, have broken out in the mountain region. Hundreds of acres of timber

were also destroyed or damaged in other fires in Madison County during the past week. Volunteer firemen from Marshall and other nearby towns, plus the Forest Service personnel battled blazes in the Paw-Paw

section Thursday and another brush fire was extinguished in the Hayes Run section Sunday afternoon.

Rain, partly mixed with snow, Monday helped the situation greatly.

Dr. Underwood Succeeded By Lenburg

Dr. Evelyn Underwood, a native of Haywood County who has taught at Mars Hill College for 32 years and guided the college's history department since 1962, will give up the chairmanship of the department at the end of the current academic year. She will continue to concentrate on teaching and other special interests.

Appointed to succeed Dr. Underwood as head of the department is Dr. James Lenburg, a native of Indianapolis. A member of the Mars Hill faculty since 1973, Lenburg earned his undergraduate degree from Butler University in Indianapolis, and his master's degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He was awarded the Ph.D. in political science from Penn State University in 1973.

While at Penn State, he taught courses in Afro-American and American History. In a special class, he taught history courses to the inmates of Rockview Correctional Institution. Prior to that, he taught American and Asian History at Alfred University in New York and from 1967 through 1968 he taught American History at Bowling Green. He was awarded the John Schwartz History Prize for an essay, "The Emergence of the GOP as a Majority Party," he authored at Bowling Green.

Lenburg will take over leadership of the department at Mars Hill from Miss Underwood on June 1.

Miss Underwood, who began her career at Mars Hill in 1944, attended the public schools of Haywood County and finished her undergraduate work at



DR. UNDERWOOD

Women's College, now UNC-Greensboro. She earned both her master's degree and the Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has also studied at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland).

Dr. Underwood began her teaching career in Clyde. After one year in the public school there, she transferred to the Waynesville Township High School. Later she taught in the Gastonia city schools, and came to Mars Hill when the school was still a junior college.

Miss Underwood's brother, Robert Lee, a retired businessman, still lives in Waynesville, and her niece, Sarah, is a student at the college.

In addition to her teaching duties, Miss Underwood is involved in numerous civic and cultural affairs of both Madison County and the Western North Carolina region. She is county-wide chairman of the local bicentennial celebration and



DR. LENBURG

is a member of the Western North Carolina Historical Association.

When the current school year is over and the departmental leadership is passed to Dr. Lenburg, Miss Underwood will retain her full professorship in the department. She will continue to teach and will have more time to devote to oral history and other projects in which she is keenly interested.

Haywood Man Is Dead After Cutting Wire

Larry D. Queen, 22, of Rt. 1, Waynesville, was dead on arrival at an Asheville hospital following an electrical accident Monday in Madison County.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said that Queen, accompanied by two young girls, had been cutting wire from a line on the R.K. Meadows farm in the Spring Creek area and cut into a hot wire that led to a lockbox tower, about 11:30 a.m. His office received the call about 12:30 p.m., the sheriff said, and called the Hot Springs ambulance to the scene.

He said the charges were filed Monday.

Civil Court To Start Monday; Jurors Listed

The March term of superior court for the trial of civil cases will start here Monday morning at 10 o'clock with Judge Robert D. Lewis presiding.

The following cases are listed on the court calendar:

Grover Gentry, plaintiff, vs. Charlie A. Duck and James Edward Storey, defendants; and Charlie A. Duck, third party plaintiff vs. State of North Carolina, third-party defendant.

Tom L. Merrill, et ux, plaintiffs vs. Andrew Jackson

Art Council
To Meet

The Madison County Art Council will meet Friday, March 19 at 5 p.m. at the Madison High School, Margie Sanders announced this week. All members are urged to attend.

Attention County C.B. Operators

The Tri-County REACT Emergency Team Inc., based in Buncombe County is expanding membership and invites licensed citizen's band radio operators of Madison County to participate.

Membership is open to any licensed CB Operator, 16 years of age or older without regard to race, creed or color.

Operating in Western North Carolina since 1968, the Tri-County Team is rated among the ten top teams of America.

They monitor the National Emergency Channel 9 for calls for assistance from the motoring public, participate in March of Dimes, Cancer Society and other community oriented programs. They are an integral part of Civil Preparedness, American Red Cross and other emergency

plans and are interested in talking to 25 or 30 good, sincere community minded CBers. With the vast increase in use of Citizen's Band radio, calls for assistance are also increasing. Members are asked to volunteer only a few hours per week which does not conflict with work schedule or other obligations.

Full information can be had by attending REACT meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the Health and Welfare Center on Woodfin Street in Asheville at 7:30 p.m. or writing REACT, Stoney Knob & Robinwood Boeds, Weaverville, N.C. 28787 or calling 252-7373; 945-6238 or 252-8941. Any licensed C.B.er with a sincere desire to aid his fellowman is welcome.

Leake Named County Attorney

Larry Leake has been named County Attorney for Madison County by the board of commissioners. The 42-year-old Leake is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and of the University of South Carolina School of Law, he practices law with the Leake Law Firm of

Marshall.

Leake is a graduate of Marshall High School and a Phi Kappa Phi graduate of the University of North Carolina and of the University of South Carolina School of Law, he practices law with the Leake Law Firm of

County Arts Council To Meet

The organizational meeting of the Madison County Arts Council will be held at Madison High School at 7 p.m. on March 19. Note the time correction to 7 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. as announced in last week's article in this paper.

Bloodmobile Here On March 19

Mr. "A." the father of seven children, donated every time the Red Cross Bloodmobile visited his county, little thinking his family would ever

need blood or blood derivatives. Suddenly, his wife became gravely ill. She required more than thirty transfusions within 73 days. The American Red

Cross provided the necessary blood.

The product was on hand because Mr. "A." and others like him faithfully supported the Red Cross Blood Program.

Anyone, at any time, could need blood. In fact, statistics indicate that one in every 80 Americans will require a transfusion within the next twelve months.

The Asheville Regional Red Cross Blood Program endeavors to act quickly and efficiently for those who need blood and blood products - not only the ill and injured but trauma victims, obstetrics and surgery patients, the

hemophilic and those with chronic anemia.

Residents of Madison County are encouraged to visit the Red Cross Bloodmobile on March 19th to help keep adequate blood reserves on hand both for emergency and routine demands.

According to Mrs. Donna Rice, President of Beta Omega, the unit will be set up at Madison High School gym on the Marshall By-Pass between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This Bloodmobile visit is being co-sponsored by Beta Omega Sorority and the Marshall Lions Club.

Reid Resigns As Police Chief Here

Mrs. Faye Reid, of Marshall, who was reinstated as chief of police here on February 17, after being ousted as police chief on February 2, last Thursday resigned as chief of police here.

Following is Mrs. Reid's resignation:
March 8, 1976
To The Town Council,
I resign as chief of police of the town of Marshall, N.C.

submit my resignation effective immediately. I find I cannot function as efficient as I can or would like to any longer as Chief of Police under the strain and harassment that the Police Dept. has gone through since the first of December.

You have my best wishes for the tremendous job ahead of you and my help at any time if needed.

Sincerely,
Faye Reid
Chief of Police

As of Monday noon of this week, Mayor George Paulson told this newspaper that a successor has not been named as Chief of Police here. He stated that present policeman Gary Faye Reid, Police

Thomas Reid had quit and submitted his resignation on

The Society of Social and Behavioral Sciences announces a political forum at Mars Hill College next Wednesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in 205A Auditorium.

There will be representatives for the Vice Presidential candidates Carter, Anderson and McGovern.

DAILY NEWS
The name of the town in the strong word in the headline remains the same.