

THE NEWS - RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

75th Year No. 18

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N. C.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1976

15¢ Per Copy

Betty's Mother: 'I love her and always will'

"I was just as shocked as anyone else when I heard the news about Betty and that Hays fellow," Mrs. Norman Roberts told The News-Record Monday.

She was talking about the news of her daughter's having told The Washington Post that one of her Washington friends, Ohio Rep. Wayne L. Hays, has paid her

\$14,000 a year in government money to be his mistress.

"Several newspaper reporters and television representatives kept me awake a great deal Sunday night with phone calls and other media personnel visited me on Monday," Mrs. Roberts commented to The News-Record. She said she told them all she knew

which was very little. "Surely they can't blame me for what has happened," she said.

She also said she was misquoted in some news stories and was very unhappy about the way some of the "stories were turned around and twisted from the truth."

"One of the stories stated that Betty Lou Ray had sent me large sums of money, which is absolutely untrue. She did occasionally send me some money and would call about every two weeks to find out how I was getting along but she never sent me large sums," Mrs. Roberts said.

Mrs. Roberts said the last time she saw Betty was in Asheville in January. "She called me this past Mother's Day to wish me well."

Mrs. Roberts said she knew absolutely nothing about Betty's affair with Congressman Hays but said she thought Betty was mighty brave to subject herself to such embarrassment in order to expose what goes on in Washington.

"I hate to see Betty, now known as Elizabeth Ray, put through all

this mess, but I hope she knows what she's doing," Mrs. Roberts said.

Asked if she thought her daughter might be in danger following alleged threats, Mrs. Roberts said that Betty called her aunt, Mrs. Pansy Jean Ledford, who lives near Asheville on Monday and said she was "safe and protected". Mrs. Roberts stated that Betty was very fond of Mrs. Ledford. "Betty has always felt very close to Pansy Jean and me," Mrs. Roberts said.

Mrs. Roberts said that Betty stayed with her grandmother, Mrs. Della Smith Allen, who lives in the Brush Creek section near Marshall most of her young life but after graduating from Marshall High School she went to Washington to seek employment.

"I know she was a fine girl who desired to become a movie star or a model. She was always a real pretty girl and I think she still is," Mrs. Roberts said.

"I love her very much and always will," she concluded.



Betty Lou Ray

141 Will Graduate From Madison High

Madison High School will graduate 141 seniors on Tuesday night at 7:30 in ceremonies in the high school gymnasium.

Guest speaker will be John Parris of Sylva, noted Asheville Citizen-Times columnist. Miss Pam Maxwell, senior class secretary, will introduce Parris.

The following program has

been announced:

Organ prelude by Mark Jones, organist in the music department of Mars Hill College. Included in the organ selections will be "Jubilate", "Chaconne", and "Crown Imperial".

Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance"

The invocation will be given by Shirley Goforth, senior

class treasurer; welcoming remarks by Kent McPeters, senior class president.

Two anthems: "It's A Wonderful Thing To Be Me" and "The Patriot's Dream" will be rendered by the Madison High chorus under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Roberts of the Mars Hill College Music Department.

Larry Peek, senior class vice president, will be a student speaker, followed by a solo, "The Hands of Time" by Harrell Wood, popular senior.

Ricky Anderson, senior class reporter, will also be a student speaker.

The presentation of diplomas will be made by David Wyatt, principal; J. Bruce Phillips, assistant principal; and Fender Allison Jr., an outstanding senior.

Miss Shirley Goforth will pronounce the benediction which will be followed by the recessional, "Carillon".

Seniors graduating include: Lydia Roxanne Allen, Roger Dewayne Allen, +Fender Leo Allison Jr., +Vanessa Diane Ammons, Nancy Elizabeth Anders, +William Richard Anderson, Wanda Sue Bailey, Carolyn Irene Baker, Vivian Lane Bechtol, James Fredrick Bishop, David Junior Blackwell, Danny Lee Boone, Karan Vanessa Boone, Janet Elaine Brady, Timothy Ray Bragg, +Terry Dwayne Briggs, +Cheryl Ann Britt, +Phyllis Elaine Buckner, Timothy K.

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Mars Hill College Gets \$2 Million Federal Grant

Mars Hills College received word Friday that it has been awarded a \$2 million grant — the largest in its 120-year history. U. S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor made the announcement.

The award was made by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Title III of the Amended Higher Education Act of 1965 through the Advanced Institutional Development Program (AIDP). It will allow Mars Hill to complete its full development as a senior college.

Mars Hill was the only North Carolina institution among the 32 colleges and universities in 23 states receiving nearly \$57 million in AIDP funds.

The funds will cover an initial six-month planning program scheduled to begin July 1 and a five-year development span beginning Jan. 1, 1977.

The five-year plan will cover 10 major areas relating to the college's competence-based curriculum: a management information system, an evaluation center, the Mentor program, areas of specialization, the social work degree, a program for teachers of gifted children, youth services program, the continuing education program, and the experiential education and career counseling centers.

The new curriculum was designed to cover six general areas of competence the college deems

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Was Marshall Woman Congressman's Lover?

Betty Lou Ray of Washington, D.C., a native of Marshall, became a household word here Monday following news media disclosure of her alleged love affair with Ohio Congressman Wayne Hays in Washington.

Not too many people remembered Betty since she has been gone from Marshall for more than 10 years and seldom visited here.

Newsmen and telecasters converged on Marshall Monday to find out all they

could about the blond beauty who told The Washington Post that one of her Washington friends, Congressman Hays, has paid her \$14,000 a year in government money to be his mistress.

Not too much could be learned other than her early life here. Betty was born near Marshall but her father, Oliver Ray, was killed in a car accident near Barnardville when Betty was only 2½ years old.

"She lived most of the time with her

grandmother, Mrs. Della Smith Allen of the Brush Creek area near Marshall," Mrs. Norman Roberts, Betty's mother, said.

"She was a fine girl," Mrs. Roberts said. "She always seemed to desire becoming a movie star."

Mrs. Roberts, who is the mother of five other children by a subsequent marriage since she was married to the late Oliver P. Ray, said her daughter

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Filing Deadline Friday

The Madison County board of elections announced this week that the deadline for candidates to file is Friday at noon.

7 Communities Enter Development Program

Seven communities in Madison County are participating in the Western North Carolina Community Development Program this year, Morris L. McGough, executive vice president, announced this week.

The communities include Big Laurel, Sleepy Valley, Bull Creek, Forks of Ivy, Upper

Laurel, Greater Ivy and Mars Hill.

The community development program is now in its 27th year. It is sponsored on an area basis by the WNC Development Association in cooperation with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service and local sponsors in each county. Objectives of the

program is to boost community pride and spirit and to encourage people to work together to build better areas in which to live. It is a grass roots program based on what people in the communities can accomplish with their own resources. Results over the years have included the erection of nearly 100 com-

munity centers, playgrounds, fire departments and many beautification projects.

Area wards totaling \$7,500 will be presented next fall to

the communities showing the greatest improvement during the year. These are provided by area business firms and industries. An estimated \$12,000-\$15,000 in local awards will be presented in competition within the counties.

Communities are divided into three divisions for judging purposes. Division "A" for communities with less than 75 families has 28 entries; Division "B", 75-150 families, has 34 entries and Division "C", those with over 150 families, has 37 entries. All areas will be judged on the same scoring system.

Over 90 of the communities also entered a special community beautification contest.

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Emery Metcalf Announces

For Register

Emery Metcalf is a candidate for Register of Deeds for Madison County. He is a Democrat.

He is the son of Mrs. Blanch Allen Metcalf of the Long Branch community and the late Garrett Metcalf.

Emery received his education in Yancey and Madison County schools and is a member of a Free Will Baptist Church.

He was elected auditor of Madison County in 1970 and again in 1972. In 1974 he served as supervisor and member of the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

His wife is the former Miss Faye Ray.

Metcalf said if he is nominated and elected he promises to run the office of Register of Deeds in an unbiased manner and will try at all times to have efficient personnel in the office.

"I would like to again serve the people of Madison County," Metcalf said.



Pictured above is the 1976 Graduating Class of Madison High School