

# THE NEWS - RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

75th Year No. 19

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1976

15¢ Per Copy

## Fire Destroys Old Hot Springs Hotel

By JIM STORY

Fire completely destroyed the massive Hot Springs Hotel Saturday night and left only the scarred brick walls standing. Flames were discovered coming from the hotel about 10:45 and Hot Springs firemen answered the call immediately. However, Carroll Anderson, Hot Springs fire chief, stated that lack of water at the lone fire hydrant near the hotel made it impossible for firemen to extinguish the fire. He stated that the main water line to the hydrant had been "rusted apart" for years and there was absolutely no water at the hydrant.

"The firemen did everything they could but to little avail," He said the Marshall firemen

were called and responded within 30 minutes with three pumpers but by that time the fire had engulfed the huge 50-room building." Anderson also said that two Hot Springs female "firemen" — Genelle King and Linda Tull — helped battle the fire. He said that Genelle King was injured while helping reel in hose on the Hot Springs fire truck but the injury was not serious.

"We are most grateful to the Marshall firemen for their quick response and also wish to congratulate everyone who helped battle the furious fire," Anderson said.

Lee Fowler, who was caretaker of the vacant hotel, stated that most of the rooms on the second floor contained beds and that several valuable antiques, including a grand

piano, were destroyed. Fowler also pointed out evidence of shoe prints in the ground near one end of the hotel.

The SBI and Sheriff Ponder were on the scene quickly where investigations started on the likely cause of the fire, thought by some to be incendiary.

Oddly enough, one week earlier on Saturday night, May 22, firemen were called to the same hotel where a fire was discovered in the dining room and back porch. This happened, also, about 11 p.m. Firemen extinguished the blaze without flames spreading to the main portion of the hotel.

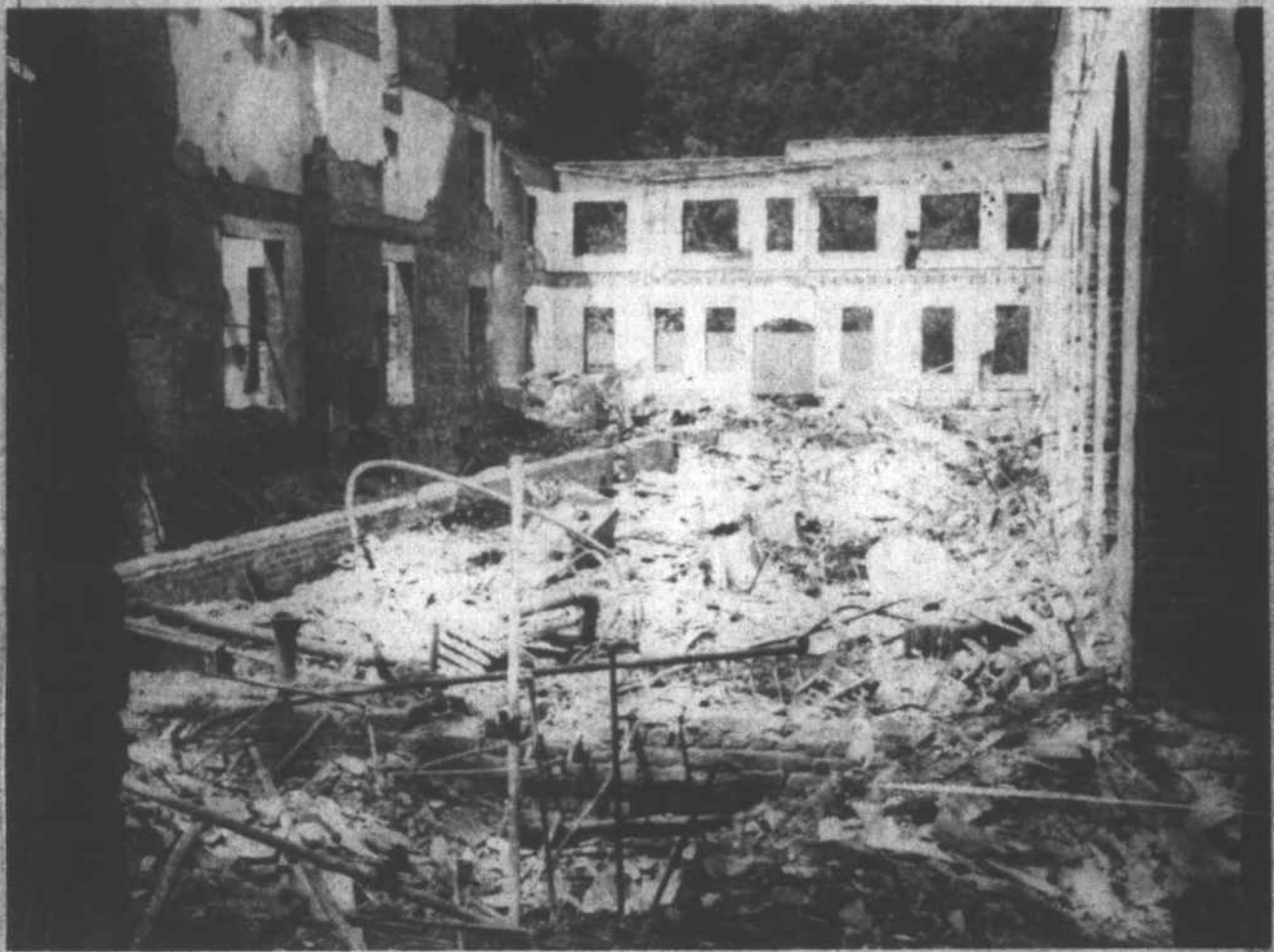
The hotel which burned last Saturday night was started in 1924 and completed in 1926, according to reports.

For the past several years the huge brick structure, adjacent to the Hot Springs Bath house which originally had 16 separate hot springs bathing stalls, has been vacant. The hotel was formerly a gorgeously-decorated and furnished place with splendid dining room facilities. Meetings and banquets were frequently held and it was one of Western North Carolina's most popular and beautiful places to spend hours, days and weeks. The natural hot springs were piped from the French Broad River into the bath house where hundreds of persons from throughout the world visited and enjoyed the healthful baths.

In recent years the hotel, owned by the C. L. Rudisill heirs, has been closed but many visitors still liked to drive through the huge lawn from the highway just to see the grounds and hotel.

This particular hotel was built near the site of the original world-famous hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1921.

Will a hotel ever be built back in the same location? This is a question which can only be answered in the future.



THE CHARRED remains of the first floor which included the beautiful lobby and dining room. (Photo by Jim Story)

## Testimony Resumes In Teacher Trial Here

Testimony in the trial here of six teachers, charged with falsifying attendance records, resumed Tuesday morning following a court holiday Monday due to Memorial Day.

The trial began in superior court here with jury selection last week and is the result of an appeal by the teachers from District Court where they were all convicted last October on the charges and fined \$50 and costs.

Mrs. Jewel Church, the former principal of Hot Springs Elementary School, testified Friday that she falsified school attendance records and directed others to do the same.

Mrs. Church was a witness for the prosecution in the trial of the six teachers, charged with falsifying attendance records to show a larger enrollment. Mrs. Church has also been charged in the case.

The defendants are Larry S. Plemmons and Mattie Ray Ramsey, who were teachers at Spring Creek Elementary School, and Vera B. Sumerel, Elizabeth Staude, Isabell B. Maynard and Frances Lee Ramsey, who were teachers at Hot Springs.

James E. Rice, pupil accounting supervisor for the N. C. State Board of Education, said he uncovered the falsified records during an investigation of the schools in April, 1975.

Also testifying for the state

Friday was Robert Thomas, an agent with the State Bureau of Investigation, who also probed the records case last June and interviewed all of the defendants.

Superior Court Judge Robert

D. Lewis of Asheville is presiding. Defense attorneys are Lamar Gudger, A. E. Leake and Robert Willson. District Attorney Clyde Roberts is prosecuting the case.

## Horse Show On Island Saturday

The annual Marshall Charity Horse Show, sponsored by the Marshall Lions Club, will be held this Saturday on the Island. Officials state that there will be two shows, the afternoon show to start at 1 p.m. and the evening show at 7. In case of rain, the show will

be held June 6, it was announced.

Honorable David Bledsoe of Fayetteville, will be the judge. He is a member of the Racking Horse Breeders Association of America.

Lloyd Thompson of Asheville will again be master

of ceremonies, and Roger Wood of Marshall will be ringmaster.

The show committee is composed of Maurice McAlister, John Corbett, Roger Wood, Jerry Plemmons, Ed List and David Caldwell.

Mrs. Jerry Plemmons will serve as show secretary. Officials announced that a veterinarian will be on call.

As in the past years, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, candy, soft drinks and other "goodies" available on the grounds.

Officials have announced that there will be 37 classes with 19 showing in the afternoon program and 18 in Saturday night's session, including six championships.

Added this year will be high point trophies which means that the horse accumulating the highest number of points will receive a high point trophy. Five points will be awarded for first place, four

for second place, three for third place, two for fourth place and one for fifth place.

Standard horse show rules will be applied.

Proceeds from the event will be used to further the Lions projects for the visually handicapped and blind, plus other community projects.

Classes listed for the afternoon show are:

1. English Halter No. 1, two years and under; No. 2, over two years.
2. Western Halter, No. 1, two years and under; No. 2, over two years.
3. Lead Line (riders six years and under)
4. Appaloosa Halter
5. Pleasure Ponies (50 inches and under)
6. English Pleasure (open)

7. Madison County Pleasure (riders 18 years and under)
8. Potato Race
9. Ladies' Western Pleasure (riders 17 years and over)
10. Pepsi Cola Race
11. Western Pleasure (16 years and under)
12. Juvenile Racking (riders 12 years and under)
13. Musical Tires
14. Gentlemen's Western

15. Ladies' Racking
  16. Appaloosa Western Pleasure
  17. Buddy-Pick-Up Race
  18. Speed Racing
  19. Barrel Race
  20. Lead Line (riders six years and over)
- The evening show will begin at 7 with the following program:  
(Continued on Page 9)

## Bicentennial Edition Planned

Plans are being made for a special Bicentennial Edition of The News Record on July 1. It was announced this week by Jim Story, editor.

Numerous historical articles will be published and many merchants and individuals will have an opportunity to congratulate the county during this nation's 200th birthday.

A copy of The News-Record will be placed in the capsule to be buried during the first week in July on the Mars Hill Campus.

Plans are being made to

mail copies to every boxholder in Madison County, as well as many extra copies for sale.

All copy must be in The News-Record office immediately as well as advertising copy.

Old pictures of interest (must be clear for reproducing) are needed with "cutlines" and short articles.

"We will use as many as possible in this special edition," Editor Story stated, "but it will take the cooperation of advertisers and the public to make this issue a reality."

## County Mental Health Center Is Dedicated

The Blue Ridge Community Mental Health Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday, officially opening their new facility in Madison County.

Present for the ceremony were state representative Liston Ramsey and Ernest Messer. Ramsey serves on the State House Appropriations Committee, while Messer is a member of the Commission on Mental Health Services. Also attending were members of the agency's administration board and representatives of the staff.

The Blue Ridge Community Mental Health Center is under the direction of the area mental health board. The

board consists of citizens and county commissioners from Madison, Yancey, and Buncombe counties. Representing the board for Madison County were James Ledford, chairman, county commissioners, and Mrs. Elizabeth DuVall.

The occasion provided an opportunity for a frank exchange of ideas on the problems which are faced by local facilities and the directions which area programs are taking in their effort to implement state and federal guidelines. Most recently, emphasis has been placed on decentralization — the providing of services locally, in clinics and half-way houses, rather than in the

larger, more expensive state hospitals. Both Messer and Ramsey were in agreement as to the fiscal benefits which result from the new policy. "Additionally," they pointed out, "it is simply more convenient to the consumer if services are available in his own community." Under this plan only the more serious cases would be referred to the state hospital for treatment. Others would be able to make use of services offered at local centers.

The facility, which is located next to the Madison County Health Department, is staffed by a full-time psychologist and a full-time social worker.

Parttime services are provided by a psychiatrist and a physician's assistant. Other psychologists and social workers from Children's Services from Asheville, and two alcoholism counselors complete the basic team. Once a month a counselor from Vocational Rehabilitation joins the other members of the staff.

In addition to direct services to clients, the office provides consultation services to other county agencies such as the Juvenile Court and the schools. The Madison County center is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekdays. Appointments may be obtained by calling 649-2337.

## Anderson Named Mars Hill Principal

Frederick F. Anderson, principal of Walnut Elementary School, will become principal of Mars Hill Elementary School on July 1, replacing Fred Dickerson who is retiring.

Anderson, a native of Mars Hill, is the son of Fred W. Anderson who devoted much of his life to education in the Madison County School system.

Anderson will be returning to the school from which he graduated in 1953, then a high school. He attended Mars Hill Junior College and graduated from Wake Forest University with a B.S. degree. He earned a Master's degree at

Appalachian State University and has pursued post graduate studies at several universities including the University of Colorado, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina at both Greensboro and Chapel Hill and Western Carolina University. In 1965 he was the recipient of a Reynolds Tobacco Company scholarship for summer study at the University of Colorado.

Anderson's background includes a variety of educational experiences. After teaching one year in Baltimore, Md. in 1958, he returned to North Carolina to the Winston-Salem-Forsyth

County Schools and remained there for 10 years. After teaching seven years, he was an assistant principal for three years, including a special assignment as Assistant Principal for Instruction. He taught night classes at Forsyth Technical Institute for two years and served as Director of Inservice Education at Forsyth Memorial Hospital for three years before returning to Mars Hill. When Madison County Schools were consolidated he transferred to Madison High School where he remained until his appointment to Walnut School.

"I am pleased with the



AMONG THOSE ATTENDING the dedication were, left to right, Claudio Rabello, Madison County program coordinator; Larry Thompson, director, Blue Ridge Community Mental Health; the Rev. Spencer T. LeGrand, pastor, Marshall Baptist Church; Elizabeth DuVall, area board representative, Blue Ridge Mental Health; Dr. F. W. Ledford,

director, rural programs, Blue Ridge Mental Health Center; James Ledford, chairman, Madison County commissioners; Ernest Messer, state legislator, member, N. C. Commission on Mental Health Services; and Liston Ramsey, state legislator, chairman, N. C. House Appropriations Committee.