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Laurel's Dream

Children Find Learning Fun At Newly Opened Day Care Center

By DAHLIA NEWTON

Outside — a rainy, gray day; but inside, so much is going on that no one cares. In one part of the room, cooks happily rattle pots and pans. Close by, would-be party goers clamor in and out of a closet looking for their favorite dress-up clothes. In a corner, a small milker tends her cow.

Chaos? No, just free play time in full swing at the newly opened Laurel Day Care Center.

Not many months ago, the center, located in the Laurel School, was just a dream in the hearts of people in the community. Now, thanks to hard work and cooperation from several groups, the center is a reality. Several children are already enrolled, and eventually, some 25 preschoolers, ages 2-5, will take part in the comprehensive day care program.

The enthusiasm the children put into their play carries over into other phases of the program

as well, comments teacher Doris Conner, mother of two and graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a degree in early childhood education.

Surprisingly enough, one of the first questions of the day is, "When do we brush our teeth?" And when brush-up time comes, the children expend a good deal of energy, according to Betty Jane Cook and Mary Ruth Payne, teacher aides for the 2- and 3-year-olds. Finger painting is another favored activity, notes Anita Shelton and Christine Gosnell, aides for the older children. When weather permits, the youngsters run and play outside as many as two hours a day.

To provide energy for all their activities, the children are given two snacks and a hot lunch daily. Meals are prepared by school lunchroom staff and served to the children in their rooms.

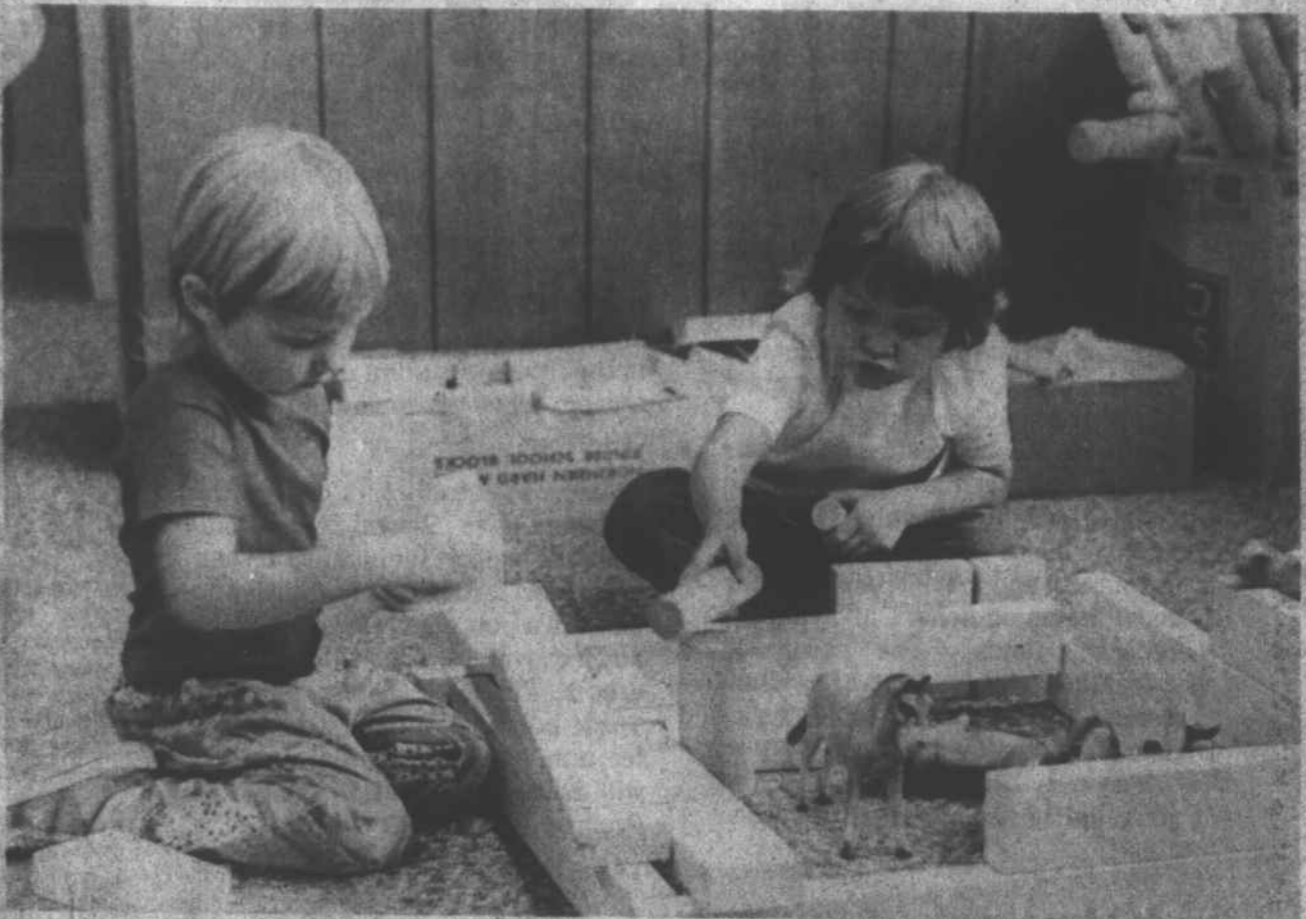
If the youngsters run out of steam, and even if they don't,

they rest after lunch, each one on his own cot.

On the less active side, story time claims attention. Gathered in age groups, the youngsters sit in child-sized chairs pulled close to their instructors as they listen to stories and tell some of their own as well. Animals are favorite subjects. Here, too, they learn such things as colors, numbers and names for parts of the body.

The large rooms, now painted in cheerful shades of yellow, orange and gold, were vacant and in need of repairs not too many weeks ago. They are now used for the benefit of the community's preschoolers largely because a group of people in Laurel were concerned about the needs of this age group and met to see what could be done. They conducted a survey which shows that around 130 preschoolers live in the area which comprises about a third of the county. Although there

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COOPERATION MAKES BUILDING A BARN EASY for Shanna Sams and Nickie Wallin. One of the objectives of the day care

staff is to see that children learn to share and take turns and consider the rights of others as they go about daily activities.

Mrs. Gamble Clarifies Petition

In the article published in this newspaper on Nov. 4 concerning the ABC store referendum in Hot Springs set for Dec. 7, reference was made to the two petitions calling for a referendum. The article stated that the first petition was found invalid because not enough of the signers lived within the Hot Springs town limits. A second petition was presented the governing board in August which was declared valid.

"The first petition should have been valid," Mrs. Tony Gamble, vice-chairman of the Republican party in Hot Springs, told the News-Record last Wednesday. She stated that the signers of the first petition did live within the town limits.

Mrs. Gamble is the widow of Tony Gamble who was registrar in the Hot Springs precinct during the hearings of the petitions.



DECORATING A WALL OF THE CENTER is art work by the children. Pointing to his contribution is Patrick Brinson. Drawing is

just one of several activities used to encourage the children to express themselves creatively.

At Hot Springs

Baptists Oppose ABC Operation

At its regular meeting here in Marshall recently, the executive committee of the French Broad Baptist Association voted unanimously in favor of a motion to go on record opposing the operation of the Hot Springs ABC Store. Executive committee members stated that their people are eager to reaffirm this position publicly, and to take this opportunity to encourage the citizens of Hot Springs to enthusiastically express their honest convictions at the ballot box on the day of the referendum. "We

are well aware that the liquor industry puts out a lot of propaganda in favor of legalized beverage alcohol, but we are supremely confident that if the people who believe themselves to be Christian will do their best to do their duty, right will prevail," Stanley Peek, association moderator, stated.

The French Broad Baptist Association is an organization of approximately 50 churches, mostly in the Madison County area. "We want the people of Hot Springs who are fighting valiantly to improve their local

situation to know that their friends in the several churches of the association are behind them all the way. We encourage Christians of all denominations to lend all encouragement and assistance possible so that this situation can be brought to a successful conclusion," Peek concluded.

Mike Bradley
EMS Council

4-H'ers Cited For Achievement

The Madison County 4-H Achievement Program was held Saturday night at Madison High.

Bobby Peek, agricultural extension agent from Buncombe County, formerly a 4-H'er in Madison County, spoke to the group on "Room to Grow — Be An Individual."

4-H Extension agents Gary Bailey and Dale Panaro expressed appreciation for the fine work carried out in the Madison County area during the year and presented the 1976 4-H awards.

Listed below are the winners of the County Champion

- Certificate Awards: Jackie Buckner, Health II; Lisa Riddle, Health III; Tobie Sprinkle, safety; Dana Fox, burley tobacco; Peggy Sexton, Clothing II; Faith Wise, Clothing III; Tobie Sprinkle, model rocketry; Tobie Sprinkle, Bicycle II; Mark Rector, public speaking; Peggy Sexton, recreation; Joann Penland, music and stories with children; Peggy Sexton, crafts; Warren Wise, junior leadership; Gamble Gack, Adventure in the Kitchen; Susan Maura McGee, teens entertain; Mark Rector, senior conversationist; Warren Wise, beef production; Mark Rector, Forestry III; Mark Rector, archery; Jamie List, self-determined; Peggy Sexton, Electric I; Peggy Sexton, personal appearance; Peggy Rice, Automotive I; Faith Wise, Food Preservation III; Rhine Serence, horse; and Allen Stines, exploring the world of plants and soils.

Warren Wise for being one of the top six 4-H'ers in the nation in beef production. Warren will receive a free trip to Chicago on July 6, 1977 to compete for best in the nation.

Hayes Run 4-H Club was announced as the 1976 4-H Club of the Year and received a trophy and \$25 for their achievements.

These special Friend-of-4-H Awards were presented to Mountain Acreage, Gager's Floral and David Wynn for their contributions and generous support of the 4-H program during 1976.

Following the program all 4-H members and program participants were treated to the 4-H program during 1976.

Payne To Head Merchants Association

John Payne, Marshall businessman, was elected chairman of the Marshall Merchants Association at a meeting held here Monday.

John Payne, chairman; Frank Moore, secretary; Frank Moore, treasurer.

Payne members of the association included the following:

Electric Rate Hikes Under Negotiation

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation is currently involved in negotiations with Carolina Power & Light Company for settlement of the 1975 and 1976 wholesale rate increases.

N. C. EMC is acting in behalf of French Broad EMC as well as other electric membership corporations in the State of North Carolina who purchase power from Carolina Power & Light Company. Previous negotiations on these rate hikes had come to a standstill, but renewed talks with Carolina Power & Light Company are being held in order to reach a settlement.

Merchants Promotion To Start Here Monday

Fourteen members of the Marshall Merchants Association met Monday at the Wachovia Bank's meeting room and made plans for the annual Christmas promotion.

The promotion will be similar to last year's when participating merchants will give tickets to customers for purchases or "paid on accounts." A total of \$1,000 in trade certificates will be given, officials of the association stated.

"Firms will begin giving tickets next Monday and will continue through Dec. 31 when the final drawing will be held at the courthouse," it was announced.

Dates for individual drawings will be Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18 and Dec. 25. All drawings will be held at 10 a.m. Each drawing will consist of 100 tickets and 100 prizes. Tickets will be sold at 10¢ each. Ticket holders are requested to be present in order to receive their prizes.

"The trade certificates can be used the same as cash but must be used in participating places of business," it was explained.

A list of participating firms will be published in next week's issue.

Vice-Chairman

Mike Bradley of Marshall was elected vice chairman of the Region B Council at its organizational meeting recently in the council offices in Asheville.

The council is composed of three members appointed by the chairman of each of the four-county boards of commissioners and three at-large members appointed by Council Chairman William Ives.

In addition to the election of Bradley, other officers are: chairman, Tom Edwards, Henderson County; secretary, David Walls, Blount County; and treasurer, Dr. Marvin Walls, Transylvania County.

The council will have the responsibility for future meetings at the state level for the year. The council's first meeting will be held in Asheville.