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On the Inside . . .

Wedding bells
are ringing all over!

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Board Moves Phillips DespiteirateProtests

By JIM STORY

The Madison County Board of Education met Wednesday night of last week in the courtroom here. The regular meeting scheduled for June 6 was postponed due to commencement exercises here.

The courtroom was practically filled with persons, most of them attending as a result of action taken by the board at a called meeting on May 16 when the board of education voted two to one to transfer Madison High School's assistant principal, J. Bruce Phillips, to "a teaching position in an elementary

school."

As a result of the ruling, Phillips stated in the June 2 issue of The News-Record, "I have no desire to leave Madison High, and I have every intention of resisting the transfer. However, I will decline further comment at this time."

The above matter came up at Wednesday night's meeting and several persons protested the action and spoke in behalf of Phillips.

All members of the board of education were present in addition to R. L. Edwards, superintendent, and Larry Leake, attorney for the board.

Many questions were fired at the board by interested parents, students, and others asking the board members why they took such action, it was reported.

During the meeting Charleata Carter of the Greater Ivy community and a student at Madison High School presented a petition to the board, stating, "I am presenting the following forms which I believe represent the prevailing sentiment of the residents of Madison County." She stated that the forms had 1,000 signatures.

Following more than an hour of heated exchanges from irate

spectators and board members and as tempers reached the "boiling point," the board agreed to take another vote concerning the issue and the result of the vote taken, was three to two, upholding action to transfer Phillips.

Some of those who objected to the action to transfer Phillips, stated following the meeting that they were not at all pleased with the answers, or lack of answers, by the board.

In other action by the board at Wednesday's meeting, the members unanimously voted to release 29 Madison County students to Buncombe County

school system to attend Red Oak, Leicester, or North Buncombe schools next term. This action was taken on request of the involved students' parents, it was stated. Convenience to parents and students, particularly transportation, was given as the chief reason for the requests. Supt. Edwards commented.

Several other routine matters were acted upon at the meeting.

Contacted Tuesday morning concerning future plans, Phillips said, "Due to more recent developments, I will decline comment at this time."



Dr. and Mrs. Harold Seymour

High Blood Pressure Clinics Are Scheduled

Edward A. Morton, Madison County acting health director, has announced that Madison County Health Department will be conducting high blood pressure screening clinics in

Marshall, Mars Hill and Hot Springs during June.

People are urged to come and get their blood pressure checked—and to begin having annual blood pressure checks. High blood pressure is a disease that has no symptoms, but can eventually do great damage to the body. It is a leading cause of heart disease, kidney disease and stroke. If you already know you have high blood pressure, follow your doctor's advice. The key to controlling high blood pressure is getting and staying on treatment and having regular blood pressure checks.

Blood pressure screening clinics will be held as follows:
Marshall—Madison Plaza Shopping Center, Thursday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Mars Hill—Mars Hill Baptist Church, Friday, June 17, 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Hot Springs—Hot Springs library, Monday, June 20, 1 to 3 p.m.



ATTEND 4-H CONFERENCE — Three Madison County youths attended the Fontana 4-H Resource Development Conference June 6-10. Left to right:

Alma Stills of Hot Springs; Warren Wise of Marshall; Allen Stines of Walnut; and John Blair, leader, of Marshall.

Library Fund

Council Raises Money At Mars Hill

Dr. Larry Stern, president, presided at the monthly meeting of the Mars Hill Community Development Council on June 9 to the college campus.

Ruth Anderson, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that all was in readiness for the flea market being held June 10 and 11. She

stated that a profit of nearly \$1,000 had been raised at the recent fried chicken dinner and the luncheon to benefit the local library building fund. The drawing for the clock will be held at the quarterly meeting of the Community Development Organization on June 28 at the local school cafeteria. Proceeds from all

fund-raising efforts are being applied to the library fund.

Before the quarterly meeting every household in the Mars Hill area will receive a newsletter reporting on all facets of community development undergone in recent months. We hope this will generate interest and create more participation by residents of the greater Mars Hill Community. Community development takes a joint effort to be effective. Community residents are urged to make plans to attend the June 28 meeting to learn what they as individuals and as a group can do to help.

The Beautification Committee reported that the Town Council has proclaimed June 25 and 30 as official "Town Clean-Up" days in preparation for the judging of the 1977 community development contest in August.

It was learned that the Mars Hill Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment will soon be reconstituted. The council plans to make recommendations for persons to serve on these two boards at the Town Council meeting in July.

Mrs. Larry Burda, youth committee chairman, told the group that the newly organized 4-H Club is progressing well and already becoming active in the county and regional 4-H activities. They will participate in the exchange program with a group of 4-Hers from Minnesota the week of June 20. Dr. and Mrs. Ed

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AN UNIDENTIFIED Flying Object was sighted recently at Mars Hill School. The student body enjoyed celebrating their annual field day when grades four through eight participated in the events while the entire student body cheered them on from the stadium.

Baseball Historian

He Will Be Writing From A Quiet Corner Of Mars Hill

The man Sporting News has called "probably baseball's definitive academic historian" has just moved to Mars Hill.

Dr. Harold Seymour, originally of Brooklyn, N. Y., and his wife, Dorothy, have settled in a quiet corner at the edge of town where Dr. Seymour is preparing the third of his three-volume series, the

standard work on the history of baseball, under contract to Oxford University Press.

In preparing his work the Seymours — for his wife acts as his research assistant — have traveled all over the country to work in libraries and historical societies and to conduct interviews. They have an unusual collection of documents, microfilm, books, and other materials, and with them to Mars Hill came 40 boxes of research notes for the third volume.

For 15 years, Prof. Seymour also taught history at colleges in New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. His last post was as professor of history, chairman of the history department, and marshal of the faculty at North Shore Community College, Beverly, Mass. Now he does research and writes full time. He has published some two dozen articles and reviews in professional history, law, labor, and education journals, as well as in encyclopedias and popular magazines. He has been interviewed on radio and television, notably on the CBS Mike Wallace Show and on the Roy Campanella and Jackie Robinson programs, and was featured on a baseball TV special presented on ABC by Howard K. Smith.

Dr. Seymour has been successful in taking a writing approach that can be appreciated by both fans and scholars. As the New York Daily News put it, he "has the intellectual's passion for facts, but he writes with the light touch of the sports writer." The Buffalo Evening News said, "Seymour the historian is thorough and honest. The Buffalo Evening News said, "Seymour the fan and former batboy is nostalgic and devoted."

His first two volumes, Baseball: The Early Years (1960) and Baseball: The Golden Age (1971) was praised as "fascinating" (New York Herald Tribune), "irresistible" (Boston Globe), "remarkable" (London Times), "sheer pleasure" (Cleveland Press), "authoritative" (Journal of American History and Seton Hall Law Journal).

Dr. Seymour works with the close assistance of his wife, an editor and author of instructional materials for teachers and students in the fields of English and reading. She edits his writing and helps organize his massive amounts of research material. A former teacher and then full-time editorial specialist in linguistics for the well-known educational publisher, Ginn

and Co., in Boston, Mrs. Seymour has also published a dozen professional articles in her own field, several student workbooks, and a dozen children's books. She has worked as a news writer and copywriter, has lectured on reading instruction before educators' conferences, and has written and made educational TV programs. She holds a master's degree from Western Reserve University and has done some work toward a doctorate. Mrs. Seymour is now doing freelance writing and editing as well as assisting her husband with his extensive project.

No wonder the Seymours choose to live without the interruption of a telephone or the encumbrance of a car. Until recently, they had no television set, but Dr. Seymour decided he needed one to study present-day players in action.

Recently, the Seymours lived abroad for almost three years, in a stone cottage in the West of Ireland. They enjoyed the experience but decided they needed to be closer to the source of their materials. They chose Mars Hill partly because of the fine mountain climate and quiet surroundings, and also because they like the atmosphere of a college town and the friendly and helpful people.



R. L. EDWARDS of Mars Hill, superintendent of Madison County Schools, has been named to a new four-year term on Western Carolina University Board of Trustees.

College SART Opens Season Tuesday

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) will open its third season here June 21 with the musical comedy "Little Mary Sunshine."

According to director Jim Thomas, chairman of the Mars Hill College Theatre Arts Department and director of the summer production company, SART has succeeded because of the troupe's regional thrust.

"It has been our intent," he noted, "to present plays about the region and to produce them using people from the region." The company is supplemented with experienced actors from

other parts of the country, including some from as far away as North Dakota and California; however, the majority of the actors-technicians are people from Western North Carolina. Bill Gregg, a native of Asheville, is the company's manager and a 1975 graduate of Mars Hill. He was recently awarded the Jefferson Cup for Outstanding Achievement in Directing from the University of Virginia, where he is completing requirements for a master of fine arts degree.

David Edwards, from Weaverville, is a sophomore at Mars Hill and

has acted in several of the college's productions. He is also an accomplished guitarist and has performed at Carowinds as well as other entertainment centers.

Formed in 1975 by the Madison County Bicentennial Commission and the college's drama department, SART also receives the bulk of its financial backing from regional sources. The company has received funds from other sources, the most recent being a \$3,000 grant from the N. C. Arts Council; but the major portion of the budget comes from ticket sales and patron membership.

The world premiere of a new play has become a tradition in SART's three years.

The new play will be directed by Haywood Ellis, chairman of the Theatre Arts Department of Converse College in Spartanburg, S. C. The world premiere will be held in Mars Hill's Owen Theatre on Thursday, Aug. 4, beginning at 8:15 p.m. The show will run through Aug. 13.

All of SART's productions will be held in Owen Theatre, an air conditioned facility capable of seating 155. All shows will be performed Tuesday through Sunday with evening performances

beginning at 8:15 p.m. and Sunday matinees starting at 2:30 p.m.

The opening production for the 1977 season, "Little Mary Sunshine," is a lighthearted takeoff on all the cliches of oldtime musicals. It will be performed through July 3.

All seats for SART productions are on a reserved basis. Information about tickets, season memberships, and group rates may be obtained by calling the box office at 689-1239 or by writing to SART, P. O. Box 53, Mars Hill, N. C. 28754.