

The Legislature--What It Did

By REP. ERNEST MESSER

The 1977 session of the General Assembly has ended, and during the next few weeks, there will be much speculation as to what it did. Some people will be pleased with the accomplishments, while others will be downright unhappy.

The budget for the biennium will be slightly more than \$8 billion.

State employees received a 6.5 per cent pay increase and increased benefits.

The prison system has enough money for a major construction program.

Court procedures have been

speeded up.

The ERA was killed and liquor-by-the-drink legislation has been deferred until next year.

A capital punishment bill was passed as were a number of anti-pornography bills.

Consideration of the Land Management Bill has been postponed for two years.

The Senate has deferred until 1978 consideration of a House-passed bill to require corporations to pay income tax quarterly instead of annually.

Passage of the bill would have brought in \$91 million which was to be used for capital construction by the hospitals,

university and the prison systems.

The big, controversial bill to revise wildlife laws was studied and argued during the entire session. The bill was never acted upon and will not come up again for two years.

A new Committee on Aging was created by Speaker Carl Stewart. The committee created a division for aging in the Department of Human Resources.

An improved homestead act was passed. Persons over 65, or disabled persons, with an income of less than \$9,000 will receive a \$7,500 property tax exemption. Local lunch rooms

and other school facilities may now be used by senior citizens' groups.

Senior citizens are exempt from paying tuition at the university and community colleges.

There will be a continuing commission to study the problems of the aging.

A nursing home patients' bill of rights was passed.

Forty million dollars was cut from the Medicaid program.

A bill to curb the powers of the insurance commissioner was enacted.

A recess resolution scheduled a 1978 session of the General Assembly to begin at

noon May 28, just after the second primary, if there is one.

The resolution stipulates that consideration will be limited to budget and tax matters and to bills that have already passed one House but have not been killed by the other House.

Some of the items for consideration next year, in addition to the budget, are liquor-by-the-drink, the windfall corporation tax collection, a litter bill, and a number of other matters we won't know about until the debris of this session has been cleaned up.

See you next year.

Mrs. Brigman Gets 2nd Welfare Term

Mrs. Knox Brigman has been reappointed by the Madison County Board of Commissioners to a second, three-year term on the Department of Social Service Board. The board of commissioners wishes to thank Ms. Brigman for accepting this appointment and for her continued interest in the welfare of the people of Madison County.

Jackie Ball of Route 5, Marshall, was appointed by the N. C. Department of Social Services for a three-year term on the Board of Social Service Department.

Softball, Baseball Schedules

YOUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL
Age 8-11

Greater Ivy	3-0
Laurel	1-1
Marshall	1-2
Mars Hill	0-2

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 11
Laurel at Greater Ivy (6:30 p.m.); Mars Hill at Marshall Islanders (6:30 p.m.).

July 16
Marshall Islanders at Laurel (12 noon); Greater Ivy at Mars Hill (10 p.m.).

Age 12-14

Marshall Trojans	4-1
Walnut	3-2

Laurel	3-2
Mars Hill	2-2
Ebbs Chapel	2-3
Marshall Islanders	0-4
Hot Springs (scrimmage)	

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 11
Marshall Trojans at Laurel (6:30 p.m.); Mars Hill at Marshall Islanders (8:30 p.m.).

July 14
Hot Springs at Laurel (6:30 p.m.).

July 16
Marshall Islanders at Marshall Trojans (10 a.m.); Walnut at Mars Hill (12 noon).

Springs (6:30 p.m.); Laurel at Walnut (6:30 p.m.); Marshall at Mars Hill Lions (6:30 p.m.).

WOMEN'S ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE
National Division

Bernard's Warehouse	12-0
Greater Ivy	11-3
Tri-County Concrete	3-11
Laurel	2-11

American Division

Blue Ridge Shoe	7-5
Tucker Barker	7-5
Deringer Mfg.	7-6
Burger Doodle	2-10

Games scheduled through July 16.

July 12
Bernard's Warehouse at Greater Ivy (6:30 p.m.); Burger Doodle at Deringer Mfg. (Walnut, 6:30 p.m.); Tucker Barker at Blue Ridge Shoe (Hot Spring, 6:30 p.m.).

July 13
Laurel at Tri-County Concrete (Mars Hill, 6:30 p.m.).

Forest Service To Hire Older Citizens At Hot Springs

New congressional appropriations have led to an expansion of the U. S. Forest Service's Older American Program at Hot Springs. Increased funding has made possible the hiring of 15 more men or women over the age of 55. At present, 8 men ranging in age from 56 to 86, are employed 3 days per week for \$2.30 per hour. This rate does not affect Social Security or retirement benefits already being earned by the employees.

Other people interested in working can start immediately after being certified by the Employment Security Commission in Asheville, and passing a physical exam at the clinic in Hot Springs, which is paid for by the Forest Service.

Table Tennis Tournament Starts July 16

The second annual Madison County table tennis tournament will be held at the Walnut Recreational Center on Saturday, July 16, beginning at 1 p.m.

Champions will be crowned for both singles and doubles winners.

The competition will include both male and female divisions. Age brackets are 14 and younger, 15-17, and 18 and older.

"Ribbons, medals, etc., will be awarded each champion," Ricky McDevitt, tournament chairman, stated.

Contact your local recreation center for details, registration, etc. on July 11 and 12, McDevitt said.

Duties include maintenance of recreation areas, roads and trails, carpentry work, sign repair, equipment maintenance and tree planting. "We realize there are some limitations to individual's capabilities," said a Forest Service representative, "so we try to match individuals to jobs as much as possible and still provide interesting, challenging work for the people."

One position for which applicants are needed is as an assistant to the district clerk. Applicants will have to be over 55 with a good background in typing, bookkeeping and filing, a friendly outgoing personality, and a love of people. Information about this position can be obtained from the office in Hot Springs. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of July 18 through 22, and selections will be made the following week.

Table Tennis Tournament At Marshall

The Marshall Recreation Center will be the site of a table tennis tournament for all interested persons during the week of July 11-15. There will be three divisions of play, 14 and under, 15-17, and over 18 years of age. There will be both men's and women's divisions, both singles and doubles competition. Sign up at Marshall Recreation Center July 11 and 12. Play will start July 13 on a single elimination basis.

The winner of all the championships will compete against the winners of all the other recreation centers champions in the Madison County Championship at Walnut School on July 16.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
Age 8-10
No standings-record

Hot Springs	0-3
Laurel	2-3
Marshall Cubs "A"	4-2
Marshall Cubs "B"	4-1
Mars Hill White Sox	5-1
Mars Hill Tigers	0-3
Mars Hill Orioles	1-3
Mars Hill Hornets	3-3

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 11
Laurel at Hot Springs (6:30 p.m.); Mars Hill Tigers at Mars Hill White Sox (6:30 p.m.).

July 12
Marshall Cubs "B" at Mars Hill Orioles (6:30 p.m.).

July 14
Mars Hill Hornets at Hot Springs (6:30 p.m.).

July 16
Marshall Cubs "A" at Hot Springs (10 a.m.); Marshall Cubs "B" at Laurel (10 a.m.); Mars Hill Orioles at Mars Hill White Sox (10 a.m.); Mars Hill Hornets at Mars Hill Tigers (12 noon).

Age 11-12

Mars Hill Lions	3-0
Marshall	2-2
Mars Hill Giants	2-2
Walnut	1-3
Laurel	0-1

Hot Springs (scrimmage)

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 12
Hot Springs at Marshall (8:30 p.m.); Mars Hill Lions at Laurel (6:30 p.m.); Walnut at Mars Hill Giants (6:30 p.m.).

July 15
Mars Hill Giants at Hot

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 12
Bernard's Warehouse at Greater Ivy (6:30 p.m.); Burger Doodle at Deringer Mfg. (Walnut, 6:30 p.m.); Tucker Barker at Blue Ridge Shoe (Hot Spring, 6:30 p.m.).

July 13
Laurel at Tri-County Concrete (Mars Hill, 6:30 p.m.).

ADULT MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE
National Division

Houston Bros. AMC	6-2
Trojans	6-2
N. C. Farm Bureau	3-3
Blue Ridge Shoe	3-3
Hot Dogs	3-3
Microswitch	0-6

American Division

Burger Doodle	5-1
Deringer Mfg.	5-3
The Hasbeens	3-5
Ivy Steak and Fish House	1-3
Marshall New Auto Dealers	1-5

Games scheduled up to July 16.

July 13
Burger Doodle vs. Blue Ridge Shoe (6:30 p.m.); Burger Doodle vs. N. C. Farm Bureau (7:30 p.m.); Ivy Steak and Fish House vs. Blue Ridge Shoe (8:30 p.m.); Ivy Steak and Fish House vs. N. C. Farm Bureau (9:30 p.m.).

July 14
Hot Dogs vs. Microswitch (6:30 p.m.); Trojans vs. Hot Dogs (7:30 p.m.); Houston Bros. AMC vs. Microswitch (8:30 p.m.); Trojans vs. Houston Bros. AMC (9:30 p.m.).



WAGON TRAIN — One of the wagon trains parading through Marshall is shown entering Main Street from Upper Bridge Street Monday.



COLOR BEARER — One of the color bearers opening the Monday night rodeo performance on the island.



CROWDED ISLAND — The above scene is typical of the crowded condition of vehicles on the island here during the Fourth of July celebrations on Sunday night, and Monday afternoon and night, as thousands of persons enjoyed singing and instrumental music, the rodeo and fireworks display Monday night. The events were sponsored by the Marshall Fire Department. One of the highlights of the celebration was the arrival of several wagon trains which "camped out" on the island. (Photo by Jim Story)



DISTRICT 4-H WINNERS — Randy Pitts, Route 1, Candler, and Peggy Rice, Route 4, Marshall, (shown third and fourth from left) won the 14-county Western District 4-H automotive skill driving contest recently. They received engraved trophies and sponsorship to attend N. C. 4-H Congress July 25-29 in Raleigh where they will compete for state honors. The awards are sponsored by the N. C. Motor Carriers Association. The winners are shown with judges (left to right) Dan Wilson, Burnsville; Hansel Barlow, Wilkesboro; Pitts; Miss Rice; Henry Revell Jr., Greensboro; and Trooper A. T. Morrison, Burnsville. Barlow, safety director for Holly Farms, represented the motor carriers and presented one trophy. Revell, 4-H specialist with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, made the other presentation. The contest was held June 22 at Mountain Heritage High School, Burnsville.

FIRE LOSSES SLIGHTLY DOWN
NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in five years, losses due to fire in the United States showed a slight decrease, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

The estimated fire loss for 1976 totaled \$3.56 billion, down less than one per cent from 1975. The figure is still substantially greater than the 1974 fire loss.

The estimate, made by an insurance statistical, advisory and rating organization, is based on individual insurance company reports and allows for additional losses not covered by insurance.

Wildlife Food Plots Maintained

Personnel of the Game Division of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission have recently completed spring maintenance of wildlife food plots on the western portion of the Pisgah Game Land. This game land is contained in the Pisgah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. Food plots on the district number 116 and contain a total of 149 acres of plantings and natural vegetation. They were established through the cooperation of the Wildlife Commission and the U. S. Forest Service.

The primary purposes of the food plots are to furnish food for deer and feeding areas for young turkeys. Deer feed on the vegetation and turkey poult feed on the abundant insect life found there. Many other animal species also benefit from the food plots in the same ways.

Maintenance includes mowing with a rotary mower, cutting back encroaching vegetation at the edges, and removing rocks and debris. Mowing prevents the invasion of undesirable vegetation and stimulates the growth of tender, young vegetation preferred by deer and other plant eating animals.

Each food plot is designated by signs as Wildlife Habitat Improvement. The shield of the U. S. Forest Service is also displayed to show their cooperation and their ownership of the land.

Camping in designated food plots is prohibited. It damages vegetation and makes the plot

undesirable to wildlife. Camping debris such as firewood and rocks for fireplaces make mowing difficult and dangerous to personnel using the rotary mowers. It is therefore requested that the public refrain from using these food plots for camping purposes.

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