

# THE NEWS RECORD

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On the inside . . .

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Turn to page 2

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## Mars Hill Has Plenty Of Water

Mars Hill has water. It has water to satisfy its needs now and for the foreseeable future.

If the future brings unforeseen demands for water, the supply system can be expanded to produce more water than anyone in Mars Hill can imagine the little town they know ever needing.

And the system is in the black; its original bonded debt paid and water sales paying the maintenance and expansion costs.

Back in 1927, Mars Hill was little more than a hamlet, a cluster of farms and a few merchants and a school.

The springs that supplied their water began to go dry. Everyone figured they could find a couple more springs close to town, rig up a collection pond and the problem would be solved.

The town fathers figured differently. They looked far into the future, bought 900 acres in the Upper Laurel section 12 miles from town, build a dam to create a small lake and suffered the outrage of some of the town's voters and tax payers.

"Back then, municipal bonds weren't too popular. Going into debt rubbed some people the wrong way," town manager Dennis McCurry said.

Going into debt for a piece of wilderness 12 miles from town for a watershed and lake seemed even crazier, McCurry said.

But that move, he said, has assured Mars Hill can satisfy its need for water even in a drought that has other towns asking for emergency conservation of water and hunting new sources of water.

Today, Mars Hill is the largest town in Madison County with 1,880 residents and a college student population of another 1,600 people.

Clean water from the enlarged lake in Upper Laurel flows by gravity through 12 miles of pipe to three town reservoirs.

Two older tanks have a combined capacity of 360,000 gallons while a new tank holds

(Continued on Page 2)

## Freight Train Derails Near Here Monday

Twenty-two cars in the middle of a Southern Railway freight train derailed early Monday in the Nocona section six miles north of Marshall, a Southern spokesman in Washington reported.

No one was injured in the mishap, the spokesman said, which involved Train No. 163 en route from Knoxville to Asheville. He said the cause of the derailment had not been determined but is under investigation.

Nine loaded cars and 13 empties went off the track, the spokesman said, with only four of the freight cars damaged. Repair crews were on the scene and had the line reopened to traffic at 10 p.m. Monday.



NEW six-inch water lines are being installed beside U.S. 25-70 and the Southern Railway from the Marshall depot to a point opposite the Fortner property where the new pipe will go under the railroad and river to the wells recently dug. In the next several months the pipe will be installed down Main Street and a connector

near Edwards Cleaners to the reservoir. Calvin Dixon, foreman, Taylor & Murphy Construction Co., of Asheville, said the project would include 7,800 feet of 12" line, 3,500 feet of eight-inch line and 9,600 feet of six-inch line. The updated and new water system is being done by the Town of Marshall.

## Lions Softball Tourney In Progress On Island

The annual Invitational Women's and Men's WNC Softball Tournament, sponsored by the Marshall Lions Club, got under way on the Marshall Island Tuesday with 22 teams competing.

Jerry Plemmons, chairman of the Tournament Committee, stated that four games will be played nightly with women's and men's finals scheduled for Sept. 1.

Plemmons announced that a coin toss will decide the "home" team, a one hour, 15-minute time limit per game, and a 10-run limit after five innings will be observed.

An additional feature for this year's event is a "homerun fence" around the outfield. Any player hitting a ball in the air over the fence will be awarded an automatic homerun. The first woman hitting a ball over the fence will be awarded a cash prize of \$25, and trophies will be presented male players hitting homeruns, it was announced.

Concessions will be available at all games. A 50-cent admission will be charged with small children being admitted free.

Last year's tournament was highly successful and this

year's event is expected to be equally successful and competitive with 12 women's teams and 10 men's teams participating.

Women's teams include Vanderbilt, Bernard's, Tri-County, AB Emblem, Greater Ivy, Burger Doodle, Laurel, City Trans, Trojans, Blue Ridge Shoe, Tucker Barker and Deringer.

Men's teams include Farm Bureau, New Auto Dealers, A. J. Auto Service, Deringer, T&H Exxon, Trojans, Blue Ridge Shoe, Hasbeens, Ivy Steak & Fish, and Parnell-Martin.

## Farmers To Report Crop and Land Use

Farm operators in Madison County are being asked to report their crop and land use acreages on all cropland. The additional information will be obtained when farmers file their wheat and feed grain acreage reports or when they come into the office to transact other business. New provisions in pending farm legislation may necessitate determining crop use on the farm.

Farmers are encouraged to submit the report as soon as possible. Crop acreages and the land use must be reported on a field-by-field basis. Random spot checks of program crops will be made to assure accurate reporting.

Farmers may visit the ASCS Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except legal holidays.

## Election Officials Appointed

Mrs. Helen Ponder, chairman of the Hot Springs Municipal Board of Elections, announced this week that the board met on Aug. 22 and appointed the following municipal precinct election officials: Swan Huff, registrar, and R. Z. Ponder and Harold Baker as judges.

The Hot Springs Municipal Election will be held on Nov. 8.

## Burley Tour Includes Ammons Farm

The annual Burley Tobacco Tour will pass through Madison County on Aug. 31. This group, composed of university and research people along with tobacco industry personnel, will make a scheduled stop at the Roy Ammons farm at 10:55 a.m. The Ammons farm is located

on Old 213 just outside Mars Hill.

While at the Ammons farm the group will see a black shank variety test. They will see the results of fumigation on tobacco fields and the recommended production practices. On and will be

equipment to fumigate fields, transplant tobacco, and cultivate tobacco on a high wide bed.

After spending 55 minutes at the Ammons farm, the group will attend an awards banquet at the Holiday Inn West, Asheville, then proceed to the Mountain Research Station at

Waynesville for a short field day.

Madison County farmers are invited by Wiley DuVall, county agricultural agent, to attend as much of the tour as possible. Those interested in attending the banquet should contact the extension office for free tickets as soon as possible.

## Students Escape Injury In Mishap

Nineteen Madison High School students miraculously escaped serious injury on Thursday morning of last week when the little Pine-Bear Creek school bus plunged about 30 feet down a steep embankment on the Old Turnpike Road about three miles from Marshall. Observers stated that the bus would have gone further down the embankment had it not been that it struck two trees which stopped it. When the bus came to a stop, it rested upside down. The accident occurred about 200 yards from the Lower Bear Creek Church of God about 8 a.m.

Six students were taken to Memorial Mission Hospital where they were examined and released. It was found that they suffered only bruises. One of the students stated that "we were more scared than injured," as she arrived at the school later in the morning.

Observers reported that the driver of the bus, Verlin Talton, a 17-year-old senior, drove onto the shoulder of the narrow road and the shoulder gave way, causing the bus to topple over the embankment.

Bruce Phillips, assistant principal, who is in charge of transportation, stated that no charges were filed against Talton but that Joey Craine, senior, had replaced Talton as driver. The school bus was heavily damaged. It was also observed that heavy rains had made the shoulders "soft" which was a contributing factor.

"It was a miracle that the students escaped serious injury, for which we are all so thankful," Phillips commented.

### LAUREL ACCIDENT

The second school bus accident in two days occurred last Friday morning about 7:30 when the Laurel Elementary School bus left the narrow road on Rice's Cove on Sodom when it turned on its side when the water-soaked

shoulder "broke off." At the time of the accident, there were 18 students in the bus. None of them were injured.

The bus was driven by Michael Norton, an experienced adult driver. The investigating state trooper stated that the incident was unavoidable.

Verlon Ponder, principal, stated that torrential rains had made the road soft in places. He said that the bus was not damaged.

## Four Are Indicted By Grand Jury Here

The Madison County Grand Jury returned Monday a series of true bills against four persons charged in the death of two Yancey County men during June in the Big Laurel section.

Evidence at a recent preliminary hearing in the case indicated that the victims, Benny Hutchins, 29, and Tommy Norton, 40, both of Burnsville, had been asked by two youngsters to assist their mother in repairing a flat tire, and when the men went in their pickup truck up unpaved Rock Quarry Road to lend assistance, they were gunned down and robbed.

True bills on indictment in the case, and in the alleged break-in of the Junior Cook home in the Big Laurel area on June 10, two days before the ambush shootings, included:

Lonzo M. Crews Jr., 21, of Dresden, Tenn., and Phillip Eugene Turpin, 18, AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky., two

charges each of first degree murder, one charge each of armed robbery of Hutchins and Norton, and one charge each of breaking, entering and robbery of the Cook home.

Mrs. Evelyn Alemany, 36, of California and her daughter, Debbie Romero, 16, two charges each of aiding and abetting in the slayings.

Three of the defendants were being held in the Madison County jail. The fourth, Crews, was being held by authorities in Cripple Creek, Colo., with Madison officials expecting to gain custody by extradition in the near future.

A key witness at preliminary hearing was 13-year-old Lloyd Romero, a brother of Debbie, who testified he and his sister lured the victims to the isolated camping site near the Laurel River and watched as they were shot down.

The deaths were undetected until Norton's truck was apprehended in Colorado and Madison Sheriff E. Y. Ponder was advised of a statement made by Mrs. Alemany that the truck owner had been killed in Madison County.



## Trail Ride Scheduled

The Madison County Wagon Train Committee has planned a trail ride for Labor Day weekend. The riders will camp on the property of Weldon Wilde on East Fork the night of Sept. 3. Sunday morning the riders will leave camp at 9 for an approximately 20-mile trip through Bear Wallow, Long Branch, Laurel and across Grapevine Mountain to Arrington Branch on through Meadow Gap. The trail will end at the original campground on Sunday afternoon. Anyone wishing further information should contact Wayne Boone 649-3749 or Bill Murray 689-2918. Everyone welcome.

## H-WG Group To Meet Thursday

Charles Tolley, president of the Hopewell-Walnut Gap Community Organization, has announced the regular monthly meeting of the organization will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in the community room of Hopewell Baptist Church. Mrs. Bea Clark, chairman of the Madison County Council on Aging and a representative to the Land of the Sky Area Council on Aging, will be guest speaker.

All residents of the Hopewell-Walnut Gap communities are urged to attend.