

Christmas Pageant Set Dec. 9-10

The 14th annual Christmas pageant will be presented in Marshall on Dec. 9th and 10th at 7:30 p.m. on the Courthouse lawn and Main Street in celebration of the holiday.

The purpose of the pageant is to present the Christian's Christmas story of the birth of Christ to the people in the surrounding area and to this end local musicians, artisans, technicians, students, retirees and just plain folks are rallying together to preview the retelling of what they believe is the greatest story ever told.

The small mountain town of Marshall has seen much in the way of adverse happenings during the past two months. The laying of a new water line down the middle of its main

thoroughfare and the damage done by the flooding of the French Broad River on Nov. 6th have in no way hampered the activity of residents who have been actively involved for the past weeks in putting together this year's production.

This annual community sponsored drama had its beginnings in 1963 prompted by the vision of one who saw the similarity of the hills of Bethlehem and the mountains surrounding Marshall. Each December since that time (except for 1973 when the energy crisis necessitated cancellation) live burros and sheep have been moved onto the Courthouse lawn and a manger scene assembled and a local cast and choir have

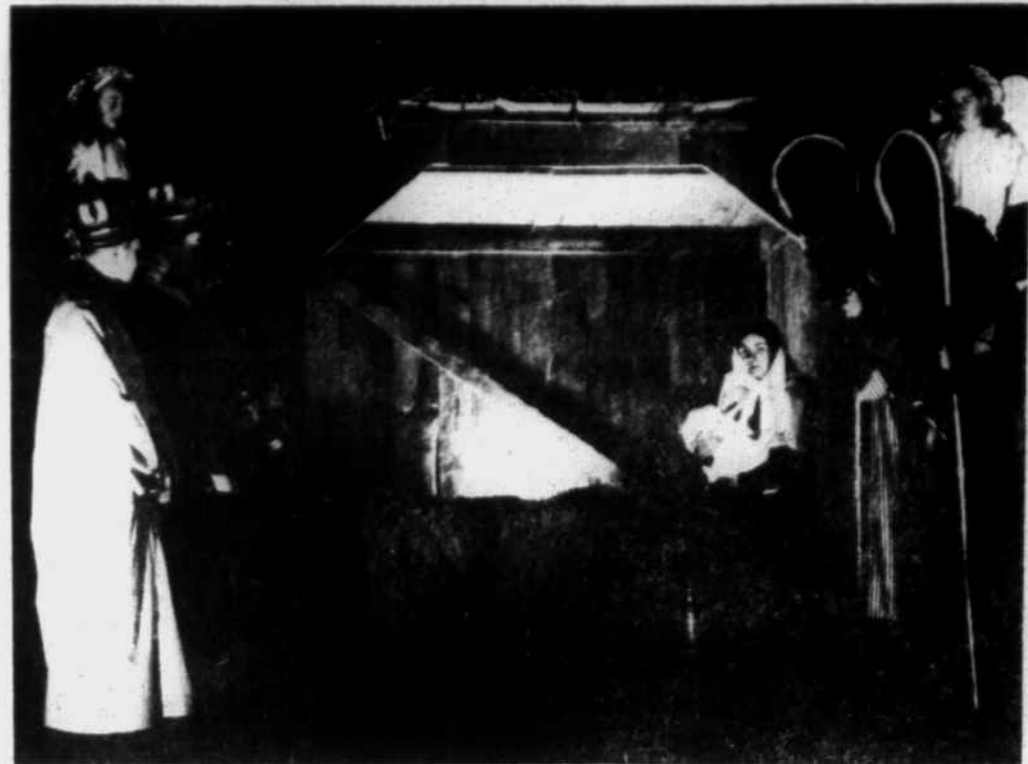
brought to life again the Christmas story.

The Merchants Association sponsored the pageant for many years and when it became apparent, as is the case with many such programs, that other help was needed, the Marshall Bicentennial Committee in 1975 stepped in to give the Merchants a hand.

This year's performance is sponsored by the local residents and Lions Club, backed by local merchants and various church groups. There is no admission charge and all are invited to share in the event. Refreshments following the drama will be served in the Courthouse lobby on both nights.

"It is again time for the

Story to be told... the story of the Birth of the King. In a world that changes with each dawn, this story remains the same. For this is the story of the dawn of a new day... Christmas Day. A day that brings light to a darkened world and a new measure of love and understanding. A day that brings each man, woman and child a feeling of humility and a feeling of gratitude for the greatest gift the world has ever known... the Son of God. The Savior of Mankind. Yes, it is time once again for the story to be told. The Story of the Birth of the King" (Taken from the script of the Knoxville, Tenn. Christmas Pageant written by Mrs. Fred DeLap.)



THE MARSHALL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

Health Clinic will
Stay busy in December
--- See Page 8

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MUD, HOLES, ROCKS mark the current scene on "Cotton mill Street" which makes walking or driving almost impossible. Many citizens who live in this section term it as "the forgotten part of Marshall." Causing this ugly

scene is the attempt to install new water mains under the former paved street. It is hoped that repair work will be completed soon before freezing winter weather makes it even worse. (Photo By Jim Story)

Community Awards

Developed Efforts To Be Recognized At Luncheon

The 28th annual awards luncheon for the Western North Carolina Community Development Program will be held at noon this Saturday at the Asheville Civic Center.

Area winners of the community improvement program for 1977 will be named at the meeting and \$7,500 in area awards were

provided this year to be presented to the top winners. Several hundred rural leaders, county and farm officials and businessmen are expected to be present.

Judging of communities to select those making the most outstanding progress during the year was done earlier this month. Representing Madison

County in contention for top area awards are Bull Creek in Division B — (75-150 families) and Greater Ivy in Division C — (over 150 families). Greater Ivy represented the county in final judging to select the community making the most progress in its overall youth program.

Presiding at the luncheon will be former Congressman Roy A. Taylor. Special entertainment from the western area will be featured.

Area awards will be presented by Congressman Lamar Gudger and youth awards by Randal Lyday of Brevard. Special awards and recognitions will be made by Walter Moss of Rutherfordton, chairman of the WNC Community Development Program, and Mrs. Ruth Gregory of Marshall.

The luncheon is open to the public but advance tickets are required. Information on tickets may be secured from the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service office.

Special recognition will be given to 27 men and women who were named as recipients of leadership awards in their counties. One man and one woman will be selected as the "Man and Woman of the Year" in community leadership for Western North Carolina. Dr. Evelyn Underwood and Dean Ledford are the nominees from Madison County.

Other recognitions to be presented include induction into the Presidents Club of

eight community clubs that have been in the program for 25 or more years and a special "Sponsorship Award" to clubs helping another community to

organize. The "Calico Cat" award will go to the community having done the best job of improving their community center.

Ball, Kravetz Accept Health Posts

Ashley W. Ball, of Route 5, Marshall, has recently been employed by Madison County Health Department as Sanitarian I. Ball is a graduate of North Buncombe High School and received his BSW degree in corrective

counseling from East Tennessee State University in 1973. He was formerly employed by Madison County Schools as Occupational Guidance Counselor at Madison High. Ball is married to Flossie

Ray Ball, who is employed as an eligibility specialist with Madison County Department of Social Services.

Marjorie Kravetz of Route 2, Marshall, recently accepted a position as Public Health Nurse I. She received her B.S. degree in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts in May, 1976, and has been employed as Home Health Nurse with Hot Springs Program for the past year.

She and her husband, Robert Sparrow, a carpenter employed by the county, reside on Laurel Branch Road near Marshall.

Tolley Elected T.E.M.A. Director

The manager of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, Marshall, has been elected to the board of directors of Tarheel Electric Membership Association, a statewide organization representing the state's 28 rural electric cooperatives.

Charles Tolley was elected to a three-year term on the nine-member board in a reorganization of the statewide EMC association.

He will take office Jan. 1, when the association's new structure becomes effective.

Under the new structure, the EMC organization will consist of three corporations: TEMA, North Carolina EMC and the newly chartered N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives (N. C. AEC).

TEMA will continue as the EMC's central materials purchasing and supply operation, under the direction of the new board.

N. C. EMC will conduct only those activities related to power supply, including negotiations with private power companies over bulk



CHARLES TOLLEY

power rates. This corporation previously handled power supply matters as well as other association functions. Those other functions, such as government relations, communications and personnel development, will be taken over by N. C. AEC.

As an EMC manager, Tolley will also serve on the 56-member N. C. AEC board.

Gehring, Holcombe Receive Honors

Two members of the staff of the Student Development Office at Mars Hill College have been elected to offices in national professional organizations, a highly unusual situation in a small college.

Dr. Donald Gehring, Dean of Student Development, was chosen as a member-at-large of the executive council of the Southern College Personnel Association at its third annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., recently. He will serve a three-year term.

Ms. Jane Holcombe, Associate Dean of Student Involvement, was elected to a two-year term as member-at-large on the executive committee of the Association of College and University Housing Officers during the organization's recent annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The Southern College Personnel Association is composed of individuals who work in the student personnel divisions of colleges and universities in 16 southern states from Washington D. C.

to Oklahoma. Both Dr. Gehring and Ms. Holcombe have previously served on various committees within the respective organizations. A native of New Jersey with degrees from Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia, Gehring is co-author of two major educational reference publications utilized by administrators throughout the nation: "The College Student and the Courts" and "The School Student and the Courts." He has contributed numerous articles to professional journals and is also a member of the advisory board of the national consulting network of the Council for Advancement of Small Colleges.

Ms. Holcombe recently authored a chapter on evaluating residence hall programs in a publication entitled "Programming and Activities in College and University Residence Halls." The two have been members of the administrative staff at Mars Hill since 1971 and 1973



MARSHALL SENIOR CITIZENS and guests are pictured above as they enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner last Wednesday in the

fellowship hall of the Marshall Baptist Church. (Photos by Jim Story)

Heard And Seen

By POP

Now that Thanksgiving is over and everyone seems to be getting back to normal after indigestion from overeating, thoughts are turning to Christmas and the purchase of gifts for loved ones... as usual, I don't really get started on Christmas shopping until two or three days before Christmas... a friend of mine told me a few days ago that she had completed her Christmas gift shopping... in fact, she said she finished up about a month ago... that's what I call smart... something that I'm not. Speaking of smart, Betty Maxwell told me that she and her daughter, Pam, (Mrs. Jimmy Ramsey) worked until 4:30 a.m. last Saturday morning making fruit cakes... that's what I call smart.

The senior citizens of Marshall and vicinity enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner last Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall of the Baptist Church here... as usual, Maria Cox, Evelyn Ramsey, Diara Rice and others had prepared a wonderful meal with turkey and all the fixings... the tables were beautifully decorated with baskets of fruit, etc., and I really filled up, as usual.

The annual Marshall Christmas Pageant is scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday nights so mark your calendar to attend this impressive pageant... Charles Huey is again in charge of the music, Jack Ramsey is chairman and Mattee Mashburn is in charge of publicity... rehearsals are in progress and it is hoped to be again successful in this the 14th year of presentation.

The sudden passing of Wade Ponder, Hot Springs businessman and former county official, was a shock... our sympathy goes to the family and loved ones.

The annual awards luncheon of the WNC Community Development Program will be held this Saturday at the Civic Center and the event is always entertaining and exciting... I am making plans to attend the luncheon and again seeing a lot of friends.

Education

Board Meets

Monday

The Board of Education will meet at the courthouse next Monday at 7 p.m. R. L. Edwards, superintendent, announced today.

In addition to routine business, J. Bert King, architect, will give a report, and applications for admission or transfer of students will be discussed.

The public is invited.

Christmas Music

A program of Christmas Music directed by William D. Thomas Jr., will be presented at the Beech Glen Baptist Church, Dec. 8 at 7 o'clock, by the Music Department of the Mars Hill College.

The program is sponsored by the Women's Club of The greater Ivy Community Citizens Association.