

Untied Burley Tobacco

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed to change grade standards and make price support available for limited quantities of untied, baled burley tobacco during the 1978-79 season as a marketing experiment.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said if the proposal is accepted and the experiment is successful, the new marketing method could greatly reduce farmers' costs in preparing burley tobacco for market.

Bergland said that under the proposal, any producer interested in marketing untied baled 1978-crop burley tobacco would apply this September at the local county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Office.

If the proposal goes into effect, interested producers would certify that all bales to be delivered for price support

and official grading will meet the following specifications:

- (1) All tobacco in all bales offered for sale as a single lot will be of similar quality.
- (2) The tobacco will be stalk-cured.
- (3) The bale will contain no foreign matter.
- (4) The tobacco will not be nested. (Nesting is the concealing of foreign material or inferior tobacco inside the bale).

Producers must comply

with the filed certification in order to be eligible for price support and grades on any tobacco produced on their farms.

Under the grading proposal, tobacco graders with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) would apply official grades to the limited quantities of untied burley packed in bales during the 1978-79 season. Presently, tobacco graders classify untied burley as No-G ("no-

grade") which makes the tobacco ineligible for USDA price support.

Bales accepted for grading would be 1 by 2 by 3 feet and the leaves in the bales untied and packed straight. Butt ends of leaves must be oriented to ends of the bales with tips to the center.

USDA officials said warehouse operators will be required to open a particular bale in a lot of tobacco chosen by a federal grader for in-

speciation and to reseal the bale after inspection.

Baled burley tobacco would be officially graded and marketed with price support only during five sale dates at each warehouse. The Burley Sales Committee—composed of representatives of producers, warehousemen and buyers—or some other appropriate organization, would determine the sale dates. However, three of the sale dates would have to be

during three separate weeks preceding the tobacco marketing Christmas holiday recess and two would be during two separate weeks after the recess.

Comments regarding price support should be mailed to the director, Price Support and Loan Division, ASCS-USDA, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., 20013. The deadline for receiving comments on the proposal is Aug. 7.

Secretary Bergland said that the new marketing and price support proposals stem from experiments conducted by the University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee as well as various state Farm Bureaus. Tobacco producers, buyers and warehousemen have also helped search for a less costly method of marketing burley tobacco than the traditional method of handling it tied in small bundles, he said.

USDA Proposes Grade Standard Change, Price Support For Limited Quantities

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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SHARON RAY, county elections board supervisor, (back toward camera) is shown testifying before the state Board of Elections during the first day of hearings in the

courtroom here Monday afternoon. The probe of alleged election irregularities is expected to continue through Wednesday. (Photo by Jim Story)

Witnesses Heard In Election Probe

Findings of a month-long SBI probe of alleged election irregularities in Madison County came under review Monday by the state Board of Elections. The opening day's testimony, held in the courtroom, was attended by a large audience despite the intense heat.

The hearings were resumed Tuesday morning and are expected to continue through Wednesday and possibly Thursday, according to members of the state Board of Elections.

The state board is composed of Kenneth Babb of Winston-Salem, chairman; Mrs. Aileen Highsmith of Asheville; Dr. Sidney Barnwell of New Bern; John Stickley of Charlotte; and Mrs. Shirley Herring of Kinston.

Babb ruled at the outset of the hearing that there will be no cross-examination of witnesses since none of the accused is in jeopardy which brought objections from Swain and Eldridge Leake.

After Babb read a list of witnesses, containing more than 20 county citizens, testimony began in the hot, stuffy courtroom.

MONDAY'S SESSION
The first witness, James C. Dodd, 18, said he was registered and voted by Ball at the elections board office after being caught stealing

gasoline from a school bus.

He said Ball took him to the elections board when Sheriff E.Y. Ponder's office and told him which candidates the Democratic Party was supporting in the primaries before he voted an absentee ballot. He said charges were never pressed on the gas theft incident.

J. Bruce Phillips, assistant principal at Madison High School, said he talked with Dodd following the incident. Dodd told him, he said, that Ball had suggested that he get registered and vote before leaving for the Marine Corps.

Sharon Ray, county elections board supervisor, was called to the witness stand on several occasions and questioned about the boards records on absentee voting. Baxter Bailey Shelton, Wallace Cooke, Scofield Miller, Roger Wells and his mother, Marie Wells, had told about irregularities in the handling of their absentee ballots.

Baxter Bailey Shelton said he applied for and received an absentee ballot on the claim that he had no way to get from his home at Big Laurel to the

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Senior Citizens

Marshall Center Tops Priority List

By DOROTHY SHUPE

The town of Marshall received top priority for a grant of \$48,850 for a Madison County Multipurpose Senior Citizen's Center at a meeting Friday in the Mars Hill Methodist Church, according to Louis Finke of Hendersonville, chairman of the Land of Sky Regional Council Advisory Committee for the Aging.

The final approval for the center will be decided by Aug. 15 by the North Carolina Division on Aging in Raleigh. The money is allotted for

projects under the Older Americans Act in Region B and only one other was presented, that from Harvest House of Asheville. The other counties involved are Henderson, Transylvania and Buncombe. In the past, the committee's recommendations for the monies has been accepted on the basis of the advisory board's decision.

The Madison County Council on Aging and the Town of Marshall have been working closely on the project for the past several weeks. Mayor Lawrence Ponder, Mrs. Ernie Letterman, Miss Teresa Zimmerman and Mrs. Dorothy B. Shupe presented the plans for the project at the meeting last Friday.

quits to be worked on at the same time, flower planting and macrame room, recreation room, health and first aid room, ceramics, arts and crafts room, and office space for representatives of social services, social security, Office Economic Opportunity, food stamps, etc., that Madison County elderly may wish to confer with on business matters.

Letters of support for the Madison County Senior Citizen's Center have also been received from the Madison County Commissioners, Madison County Extension Department, Mars

Hill College, French Broad EMC Co-Op, The News-Record, Radio State WMMH, Mental Health Clinic, Madison County Health Department, Council on Appalachian Women, Hot Springs Health Program. Mayor Joe B. Henderson of Hot Springs and Mayor Bill Powell of Mars Hill have also added letters of support.

Mayor Ponder of Marshall and Alderman James Penland, James B. Marler, and Jackie Davis, along with town clerk Mrs. Eloise Riddle, have also worked diligently in meeting the town's portion of commitment for the project.

Auto Show Slated Saturday, Sunday

The Seventh Annual Mars Hill Auto Show, sponsored by the Mars Hill Fire Department, is scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday. The show will be held at the Mars Hill Elementary School Stadium and will open to the public at 9 a.m. each day and will close at 11 p.m. Saturday and at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Trophy presentation will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Members of the fire department expect from 150 to 200 entries of custom cars, trucks and vans, antiques, dune buggies, motorcycles and street rods comprising approximately 40 classes. A first, second and third place trophy will be awarded in each class with 10 special awards including the coveted "Best of Show" award.

On Sunday, from noon until

2 p.m., the fire department will sponsor a dinner, your choice of ham or roast beef with all the trimmings, at the school cafeteria. The fire department will also give away a ten channel scanner at the trophy presentation, tickets for the scanner will be available throughout the show.

The show has grown both in size and quality every year since 1972 and this year is expected to be the best show ever. Entries have already been received from several states as well as many local showmen who plan to participate. For a day or evening of good clean family fun, come on out to the Mars Hill Firemen's Seventh Annual Auto Show. Admission is only \$1.

Teachers Attend Workshop

All new Madison County School personnel who will work in the kindergarten or primary reading programs attended a 40-hour reading workshop at Mars Hill School July 17-21. There will be primary reading programs in Marshall School and Mars Hill School this year. Marshall School was the only school in the county with a primary reading program last year. It is anticipated that all the schools in the county will be funded for the primary reading program by 1981.

The model for the primary reading program includes the following components:

- An aide to work with the classroom teacher.
- Volunteers selected and trained to work with students.
- Supplementary materials.
- Evaluation of each school's progress.
- A comprehensive plan developed by each school involved in the primary reading program.
- Staff development to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers, aides, principals and local coor-

dinator.

For the first time, Madison County School personnel planned and administered their own program of primary reading staff development. The following consultants participated: Norma Logan and Bob Kimzey, consultants for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction; Rebecca Eller, reading instructor at Mars Hill College; Rosiland Noland and Ann Shortinghouse, instructors at Mayland Technical Institute; Gail Wood, teacher in Cherokee County; and Duretha Jones, teacher in Clay County. Madison County teachers providing instruction for the workshop are Patsy Hoyle and Ruby Gayle Anderson, Mars Hill School; and Nancy Allen and Othella Ogle, Marshall School. Two aides from Marshall School, Helen Brigman and Shelley Wright, also assisted. Participants in the workshop were Wanda Edmonds, Patsy Hoyle, Marsha Boyd, Sadie Wallin, Carolyn Ponder, Paula Ammons, Betty Ballard, Katherine Tweed, Helen

Norton, Grace Ray, Barbara Honneycutt, Wanda Carter, Mildred Metcalf, Joann Fox, Teresa Banks, Deborah Norton, Barbara Ray, Lorraine Cody and Barbara Goldsmith.

Topics in teaching reading emphasized last week were "Guidelines for Primary Reading Programs," "Teaching Reading," "Language Skills," "Role of the Aide," "Overview of Approaches to Teaching Reading," "Developing Strategies for Teaching Reading," "Children's Literature," "Creative Writing and Language Experiences," "Organizing for Reading Throughout the Day" and "Classroom Learning Centers."

Staff development activities planned for the year will include visiting other schools, attending workshops at the local level and cluster workshops with other counties.

Snelson To Collect Taxes

The Madison County board of commissioners has announced that Ernest Snelson has been named Delinquent Tax Collector for Madison County.

Snelson, who is also tax supervisor, will have the responsibility of collecting all taxes, once they become delinquent. He has been instructed by the commissioners to use all necessary enforcement measures to collect all delinquent taxes.

"Once an individual or company's tax becomes delinquent, the responsibility for collecting that tax and all records concerning same will be transferred from the office of Harold Wallin, county tax collector, to Snelson's office," the commissioners stated.

The proposed center will be located on the top floor of the Town Hall Building in Marshall. An elevator on the ground floor will enable all handicapped elderly persons to the center which will house the lunch site for the Marshall-Walnut and surrounding areas now served in the Marshall Baptist Church. The town has one year to complete renovation and then will turn it over to the senior citizens of Madison County for 10 years.

Other facilities on the same floor will include an auditorium, gift shop (for items made by the elderly) woodworking room, quilting room large enough for four

Westco Announces Expansion

Westco Telephone Co. announces a major outside plant expansion program to upgrade facilities and provide for additional service requests in the Marshall exchange.

According to Customer Service superintendent, D.G. Blair, these additional facilities will provide for new service requests and for the upgrading of existing customers in the areas of Walnut Creek, Backer Corner and Little Pine sections.

The estimated cost of construction is \$120,000 for the placing of 121,018 feet of aerial and buried cable, roughly in size from 100 pair fiber-optic to 12 pair distribution cables.

This project is due to be completed by Aug. 1.



MARS HILL AUTO SHOW this Saturday and Sunday will feature all types and ages of cars such as

shown above. The annual show is sponsored by the Mars Hill Fire Department.