

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

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77th Year, No. 31

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 3, 1978

15¢ Per Copy

State Hearing Focuses On Board Of Elections

EDITOR'S NOTE: Accounts of the state Board of Elections hearings held in the courtroom here into alleged irregularities during the May 2 primaries on Monday until noon Tuesday were published in last week's issue. Below is the account of the hearings from Tuesday noon until the conclusion of the hearings Tuesday afternoon of last week.

Hearings were ordered Tuesday afternoon by state officials to consider the removal of the three-member Madison County Board of Elections.

The order by the state Board of Elections was issued at the close of a two-day inquiry into alleged irregularities during the May 2 primaries including absentee ballot abuse and indiscriminate assistance to able-bodied voters who went to the polls.

Marvin Ball, chairman of the Madison County Board of Elections, carried a gun during the primary elections, J.B. Barrett, the assistant director of the SIB testified Tuesday afternoon.

Sen. Robert S. Swain of Asheville, who represented Ball during the inquiry here, said Ball was armed because he was refused an SBI bodyguard after threats were made on his life.

Much of the probe by the state elections board Tuesday centered around efforts to determine how the name of a man working in Tennessee

during the May 2 primary elections was written into the poll book at the Spring Creek precinct as if he had voted.

One of the five people working at the Spring Creek precinct, machine clerk Dale Keener, invoked the Fifth Amendment 31 times to avoid self-incrimination before he was promised immunity from prosecution.

Then he said he didn't write James Francis Shelton's name in the poll book, and said he didn't know how it got there.

Larry Plemmons, the democratic judge at the precinct, also took the fifth a number of times to avoid answering questions put to him by state board members and Jim Wallace, assistant attorney general.

But Plemmons also denied writing Shelton's name in the poll book.

Shelton, who went to Murfreesboro, Tenn., in April to work for relatives and was not in Madison County at the time of the election, had testified Monday that Ball had assured him that he would see that his vote "was taken care of."

Three other precinct officials, Joseph G. Justice, registrar, Billy Crowder, democratic judge, and Bobby Clark, Republican judge, denied that they wrote Shelton's name in the poll book.

All testified they were at the polling place from the time the

polls opened until after they closed and that Ball was not seen there all day.

A man and his wife who voted immediately before Shelton's name was entered in the book were questioned, and they said nobody was in line behind them waiting to vote. Carroll and Clara Askew said they wouldn't know Jim Shelton if they saw him,

however.

Crowder, a retired Army veteran, told the state Board of Elections that he wrote most of the names in the Spring Creek precinct poll book as the voters came in to cast their ballots on May 2.

But he said he didn't write Shelton's name in the book.

"I don't believe in ghosts, but it got in there," he said,

examining the book in which the names of the voters were recorded.

Crowder, precinct judge for the Democrats, challenged estimates by Clark, Republican precinct judge, of the number of voters given assistance in the voting booth.

Clark said 80 percent of the 249 persons who voted were

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ROY REEVES, LEFT, TREASURER OF THE Marshall-Walnut Medical Center Finance Committee, is shown receiving the check Monday for the center from Rep. Liston B. Ramsey, right, who was instrumental in getting the grant from the N.C. Legislature. Also in picture are Tom Wallin, chairman of the

board of directors; Mrs. Linda Mashburn and Jerry Plemmons, members of the board. More than 700 individuals, churches and organizations have contributed to the new facility between Marshall and Walnut, making it possible to have one of the most modern medical centers in Western North Carolina. (Photo by Jim Story)

In Marshall Friday

District Court Begins

The July term of District Court for the trial of criminal cases will start here Friday morning with Judge J. Ray Braswell presiding.

Cases on calendar for trial include the following:

Everett Mace, non-support; George Edward Logan, dui and dr. left of center; John Daniel Norton, dui; James Richard Jarvis, dui; Kenneth Cutshall, trespass; Floyd Lane English, dui and dui; Ronnie Allen Riee, dui; Ronald Anderson, speeding 67-55; Floyd Lane English, dui; Billy Stout, rd; Thore Floyd Tomberlin, dui and dr. without valid license; Fredrick Franklin, communicating threats; Arville Donald Hensley, dui and ncl; Kendall Joseph Wheeler, dui; Terry Neil Dotson, speeding 82-55

and illegal transp.; Urias Ramsey, public drunk and resist. arrest.; James Bruce Elkins, dui; Robert John Belgay, speeding 73-55.

Jamie Lou Blanton, dui; Magdalene Cohens, speeding 70-55; Eugene Reed, trespass; Wanda Reed, trespass; David James Messer, b&e&l; Harley Wesley Griffin, b&e&l; Cheryl Antoniette Williams, dui; Harold D. Hensley, speeding 85-55; Hermon Naillon, dui and fail to report accident; E.J. Walter Jr., speeding 85-55; Jeffrey Dale Roberts, noi; David Wayne Church, imp. registration; Billy Fred Riddle, dui and dui; Dallas Roberts, communicating threats; Ronnie Lewis Moore, assault; Henry Loyd Sharpe, fail to stop for light and siren; Henry Loyd

Sharpe, assault.

Henry Loyd Sharpe, reckless driving, assault with deadly weapon; Robert Daniel Mace, dui; Clyde Rathbone, public drunk; Garnie Edward Fritz, speeding 81-55; Billy Hensley, non-support; George Sherlin, worthless check; Bruce Gentry, communicating threats; Hubert Roberts, larceny; Kim Patrick Wilson, dui and rd; William Hartson Sexton Jr., speeding 65-55 and driving left of center; William Hartson Sexton, dui; William R. Bradley, damage to property; Rodney H. Rice, damage to property; Frederick Franklin, adwiktist; Randall Moore, b and e and l; William D. Welchell, dui and imp.

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Fatality

Bruce Killed In Farm Accident

Charles Clifford Bruce, 73, owner and operator of Mars Hill Pharmacy and trustee of Mars Hill College, was killed Monday evening when a tractor overturned on him while he was loading hay at his farm in Mars Hill.

A native of Mars Hill whose family has been associated with the community and the

college since the founding of the college in 1856, Bruce operated a farm (mostly cattle and tobacco) in the valley just north of town where his ancestors had settled. He and his wife, Mildred, had built a lovely home several years ago on the very site where he was born. In addition to managing the

drugstore down town, he loved to work on the farm and was helping with a major farm chore when the accident occurred.

He was pinned beneath the tractor when it overturned. Rescuers had to obtain a forklift from a local hardware to lift the tractor so that Bruce could be pulled free. The Mars Hill Rescue Squad ambulance rushed him to the hospital in Asheville, but he was dead upon arrival.

Bruce had attended Mars Hill College (which had an academy division in those days) during the school years of 1917-22, again in 1923-24, and completed the junior college level in the 1927-28 term. His class is scheduled to celebrate its 50th anniversary reunion at the college in October.

In the early years of his career, Bruce was secretary-treasurer of an insurance company in Jacksonville, Fla. In 1939 he was married to Mildred Newsom of Jacksonville, who had also attended Mars Hill College. They returned to Mars Hill in 1944 following the sudden death of Bruce's brother, Paul, who had been operating the pharmacy. Bruce assumed management of the business at that time and had continued there ever since, aided by his wife and several employees.

In addition to their business, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce have been active in community and civic affairs and in the Mars Hill Baptist Church, where he was an ordained deacon. He had served several four-year terms on the college board of trustees — his current term was not scheduled to expire until December 1979. He had also formerly been a member of the town board of aldermen and past president of the Mars Hill Men's Club.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the sanctuary of the Mars Hill Baptist Church with the pastor, the Rev. Richard Price, and Dr. Fred Bentley, president of the college, officiating. Burial was in the Mars Hill Cemetery with Capps Funeral Home in charge.

pallbearers included Robert

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Lady Patriot Camp

More than 90 prospective Lady Patriot Basketball players recently attended the first annual Lady Patriot Basketball Camp at Madison High School. The camp hours were from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Heavy emphasis was placed daily on fundamentals as well as team play. Each girl went through numerous 30 minute fundamental stations, heard clinics on various aspects of basketball, and participated in many league games and scrimmages. A specialty of the camp was a heavy emphasis on individual

help to each camper by camp instructors. A highlight of the week included films daily on various basketball games, fundamentals, etc. On Wednesday afternoon the entire camp was bused to the Marshall Pool for an afternoon of swimming. Friday's activities included Free Throw Shooting and field goal shooting contests as well as Shoot for the Money Contests for each age group.

The camp ended on Friday with each camper being awarded a camp certificate and a beautiful Lady Patriot

T-Shirt. Coach Ricky McDevitt of the Lady Patriots was ecstatic at the success of the camp. "Not only was the turn-out huge, but by week's end the girls were executing many individual fundamentals and team phases perfectly," McDevitt added. "I could not be more pleased with the progress of the girls during the week. We had over 55 high school Lady Patriots and 40 elementary Lady Patriots in attendance. But, the camp's success was due totally to the camp staff who volunteered their time during

the week. We could not have made it without these people. Each of these people took time off from their jobs and homes and worked hard during the week."

The Lady Patriots would like to thank each of them sincerely. Those workers included Larry West, Woody Ammons, Jack Cole, John Hough, Donnie Banks, Jack Radford, Elsberry Wyatt, Wayne McDevitt, Holden Nix, Gary Hernandez, Kenny Ray and Bobby Frisby. Also, a big thanks to Barbara Bruce and Jo Ann Frisby for serving the campers lunch each day as well as to David Wyatt and Dud Deal for their cooperation in use of all the facilities.

"Last but not least, a special thanks to many parents who transported these girls from all sections of the county each morning and afternoon." McDevitt finished by expressing extreme optimism and anticipation of the coming season. "All of the Lady Patriot teams are anxiously looking forward to the coming

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Get Ready For School . . . Aug. 10

R.L. Edwards, superintendent, announced this week that Madison County teachers will report next Monday at 8:30 at their respective schools.

On Aug. 19, students will report for orientation. School buses will run and students will be able to return to their homes by lunch time.

Aug. 14, students will report for the first regular day of the term. Buses will run and school will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Rural Carrier Presented Award

Don Smith Edwards of Route 2, Marshall, was the recipient of the prestigious "Million Mile Award" given by the National Safety Council at a dinner at the Hungry Bull in Asheville Tuesday night of last week.

Edwards is employed by the Marshall Post Office and is the rural carrier on Route 2, Marshall.

Despite recent surgery, he was able to attend the dinner along with approximately 20 of his coworkers, family,

friends and representatives of the Asheville Post Office.

The award was presented to the popular rural carrier by Roger Wood, postmaster of the Marshall office, who complimented Edwards on his outstanding safe driving performance.

The "Million Mile Award" is awarded to professional drivers for either one million miles or 25,000 hours of non-stop, accident-free driving.



MOST OF the Lady Patriots who attended the first Annual Lady Patriot Basketball Camp are shown above. Also pictured are some of the staff members. The five Senior Lady Patriots on the front row are holding a

beautiful cupcake styled cake, baked by Barbara Bruce, that the Lady Patriots enjoyed on Friday. Staff members not present for pictures were Elsberry Wyatt, Woody Ammons and Wayne McDevitt.