

Board Of Elections Is Back In Business

After weeks of investigations, hassling, discord, and rumors, the Madison County Board of Elections was back in business last Friday and acting Chairman Harold Ammons of Mars Hill said he expected smooth sailing right on through the Nov. 7 elections.

At Friday's meeting held in the Board of Elections Office on Main Street here, McDevitt was present along with Harold Ammons, acting chairman, but Roger Swann, Republican member of the board, was absent due to his being in Idaho on an elk hunt. The meeting Friday was

reported as "friendly" between those who attended which included Ammons and McDevitt as well as Sharon Ray, supervisor of elections; Diane Coates, assistant supervisor of elections; and Don West, Veteran's officer, whose office is in the same building.

In the absence of Swann, a permanent chairman was not elected but will be named by the full board when Swann returns.

Following the meeting, Ammons was honored with an informal birthday party where he was presented a beautiful birthday cake.

A breakdown in the transaction of business by the board was threatened last week when newly named board member Oscar McDevitt "lost" his certificate of appointment and letter notification from the State Board of Elections as well as the absence of Swann who was in Idaho.

McDevitt's failure to appear before Clerk of Court Judson Edwards to be sworn in as the replacement on the board for Marvin Ball who resigned was said to be part of a power play for the chairmanship of the three-member board.

Ammons and Swann feel

that Ammons should be chairman of the board, the slot that Ball filled when he resigned to avoid a hearing aimed at removing him.

A hearing in Raleigh had been scheduled for all three members — Ball, Ammons and Swann — as the result of a probe by the state elections board and the State Bureau of Investigation into alleged voting fraud in the May 2 primaries.

The question the SBI is still trying to answer is who recorded James F. Shelton as voting in the Spring Creek precinct, since Shelton at the time was working in Ten-

nessee and apparently didn't get home on May 2.

The probe seemed to be aimed at Ball, who Shelton said had assured him that his vote would be "taken care of" since he was going to be out of state on election day.

But with the resignation of Ball, the investigation headed by Kenneth Babb, state elections board chairman, seems to have lost considerable steam. Ammons and Swann are scheduled for a hearing next Monday in Raleigh.

Following Ball's resignation, the Madison County Democratic Executive

Committee submitted McDevitt's name to state Democratic Party Chairman Betty McCain, and Mrs. McCain forwarded it to the State Board of Elections.

On Sept. 8, Alex K. Brock, state elections director, mailed McDevitt his certificate of appointment and a letter instructing him to appear before the clerk of court to receive the oath of office.

McDevitt, a self-employed plumber who once served for 10 years on the Madison County Board of Elections, said on Wednesday of last week he had not received a letter from the state elections

board. He admitted, however, that he had talked with Ammons and others about his appointment, and that there was some disagreement about which would be chairman of the board.

McDevitt said he was willing to abide by whatever the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee decided.

He said Friday that he had talked with Democratic Party Chairman W.T. "Bill" Moore and that party leaders apparently want him to serve on the board whether he is elected chairman or not.



OSCAR McDEVITT

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Help day care program.
Fund - raising details
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\$1,000,000 DONOR — J. Wesley Grayson of Laguna Hills, Calif., gave Mars Hill College the largest gift in the 122-year history of the college. The money will be used to establish the Grayson Scholarship Endowment. Mr. and Mrs. Grayson were given an ovation prior to the Elon-Mars Hill football game last Saturday night.

\$1 Million Gift Will Help College Attract Top Students

The scholarship program of Mars Hill College received a big boost last week when J. Wesley Grayson of Laguna Hills, Calif., gave the college a \$1,000,000 gift.

It was the largest gift in the 122-year history of the Baptist college and will be used to establish the Grayson Scholarship Endowment, out of which the college will offer \$4,000 scholarships to outstanding high school students who graduate in the upper 10 percent of their class. These will be the most valuable of all scholarships offered by the college.

"I am thrilled almost beyond words," said Dr. Fred Bentley, president of the college, in accepting the gift personally from Grayson. "I accept this magnificent gift as an expression of confidence in the college and in our faculty, staff and students."

Dr. Richard Hoffman, academic dean, was equally elated.

"Students with superior academic skills and leader-

ship qualities are essential to the vitality of a liberal arts college such as ours," he said. "They help provide the stimulation and challenge which are needed in order to have a dynamic community of learning. We shall use Grayson's gift to help us attract more such students."

The newly established endowment fund to support the scholarship program will be managed by the finance committee of the board of trustees. J. Alvin Philpott of Lexington is chairman; and other members include Roy Brock of Canton, Ed Beach of Lenoir, Rom Sparks and Benjamin Knott of Charlotte, Dr. Robert Wren of Gastonia and Carl Meares of Fair Bluff.

Now retired, Grayson has long been identified with education and finance. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from DuPauw University in Greencastle, Ind., and for eight years was associate professor of economics and finance at the University of

Kansas and at Ohio State University.

He established and managed the Ohio office of a brokerage firm with membership in the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade. Then, for several years he was an economist and tax consultant with various government agencies in Washington. His last position, for about six years prior to his retirement, was as a tax economist with the Internal Revenue Service.

Mrs. Grayson is the former Sarah Pauline "Polly" Wall of Mars Hill, an alumna of Mars Hill College in the Class of 1934. Her family has long been associated with the college. Her mother, Mrs. Clara Wall of Mars Hill, and her late father, Roy Wall, both attended the college as did her sister and two brothers. Her uncle, Dr. Robert Lee Moore, was president of the school from 1897 until 1938.

The million-dollar gift comes at a particularly timely point in the life of the college, which is in the midst of a 10-year, \$10-million "Excellence in Action" development plan. Expansion of the school's scholarships program is an important part of that total development plan. Other facets of the plan include curriculum development, addition of certain physical facilities, and an increase in the college endowment.

"Wes Grayson's gift," added Dr. Bentley, "is not only an expression of faith in the college but also in the free enterprise system. He tells me he counts himself fortunate to live in a land where one is free to work hard, invest wisely, take the risks and reap the benefits. He takes great pride in being able to make this generous gift to a Christian college which is striving to offer its students exceptional educational opportunities."

Bloodmobile To Be Here Friday

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Marshall Community Building (Opportunity Corp.) this Friday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30.

The public is urged to donate much-needed blood during the visit here.

"You may have never given blood but someday you or a member of your family may be in need of a transfusion," she stated.



COLLEGE DAY was held at Madison High School last Thursday when approximately 250 Juniors and Seniors learned information from Admission Officers from 75 universities,

colleges and technical schools from North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Pictures show Madison students at the session in the school cafeteria. (Photo by Jim Story)

Patriots Defeat Edneyville, 3-0

Victory At Last

By JIM STORY

A 42-yard field goal off the accurate toe of Mike Hensley, Patriot sophomore, with only 50 seconds remaining in the first half of the Edneyville-Madison football game here last Friday night held up to give the Patriots a 3-0 victory in a non-conference battle.

The victory ended an unenviable record of 36 losses

and one tie. The last win was on Sept. 27, 1974, when the Patriots defeated East Yancey 20-18.

Although the three-point lead seemed small at the time, it became larger and larger as the game progressed as the defensive play of the Patriots was superb. For all intents, the game was won in the trenches as the two teams battled head-to-head between the 20-yard lines with neither team able to muster consistent drives on offense.

The Yellow Jackets, a member of the Appalachian 1-A Conference, were never able to penetrate any further than the Madison 20-yard line and were limited to 115 total yards.

Edneyville's defense was also rugged limiting the Patriots to 183 yards rushing and zero yards passing.

The defensive unit of the Patriots was led by Mark Wood, Wayne Buckner, Tim Merrill, Steven Adams, Greg Meadows, Roger Wood and Jim Hoffman, ably assisted by the other defensive players.

Holden Nix, Patriot quarterback, was the workhorse on offense with Eric English, Tim White, and Mike Hensley sharing the backfield duties.

For the Yellow Jackets, Greg Gentry and Kenny

Cable were the offensive standouts with Owenby carrying the ball on practically every other play in the second half.

In the standoff first quarter the longest single gain was made when Holden Nix, trapped behind the line, somehow broke loose and scampered 30 yards before being downed. However, two major penalties ended the Patriots' drive. Hensley's punts (6 with a 46-yard average) played an important role in holding the Yellow Jackets at bay. One of Hensley's punts in the second quarter was good for 81 yards being downed on Edneyville's

five-yard line.

With 50 seconds remaining in the first half, fourth and five, Coach Cook decided to go for the field goal. Dwayne Maxwell, Patriot center, with Nix holding and Hensley kicking, perfectly executed the all-important field goal as the ball sailed through the uprights for the victorious three points as the larger crowd went wild. Earlier in the quarter Hensley's 31-yard field goal attempt was wide but little did that matter.

With 3:13 left in the third quarter, Tim Merrill skirted left end for 20 yards to the

(Continued on Page 6)

Gross Retail Sales Show 30% Increase

Gross retail sales in Madison County increased by almost 30 percent from June 1977 to June 1978, according to statistics released Tuesday by the N.C. Merchants Association.

Gross retail sales here totaled \$2,577,113 in June 1977. In July 1977 they had risen to \$1,881,824. June 1978 totals stood at \$2,421,187.

Republican Picnic Set For Saturday

A "Meet The Candidates" Republican picnic will be held at the Old Mill Wheel on Laurel River this Saturday. It has been announced.

Rep. Curtis Ratcliff, Republican candidate for Congress of the 11th District, will be a special guest.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish.

Music by Liberty String Band of Spring Creek.

The picnic is cordially invited.

To Make Things Easier For Senior Citizens

57 Businesses Offer Discounts

Fifty-seven Madison County business establishments have signed up to participate in the Senior Tax Relief Card program which will offer discounts on their products or services to senior citizens.

The cards will be distributed to Madison citizens as soon as the paperwork can be done, according to Mrs. Dorothy B. Shupe, director for the Council on Aging, the sponsoring agency.

Alpine Tourist Court of Hot Springs, Plaza Burger Parlor Inc., of the Marshall By Park, and Jessie Hallford's Joe's Beauty Shop of Walnut.

Any business not yet contacted by Mrs. Shupe is asked to please call her at 686-0100 and she will be glad to come by and explain the program. "I'd like to see you get the benefits of this program," she said. "It's a great way to help our senior citizens."

The program, initiated in May by Gov. James B. Hunt, is to aid older Americans by giving them discounts on purchases at many businesses that do not already have such a program.

Six businessmen signed last week bringing the total to 57, she said. They are Wrenn College Union Street Bar of Mars Hill College, National 1 and 20 cent Store and David's Golf Station at Marshall.