

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Tall tales flourish
at Loafers Glory
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Open House This Sunday

Water Improvement Facilities Completed

The Town of Marshall has recently completed a \$920,000 water system improvement project with justification of the project already evident. For many years, the town has experienced water system difficulties due to an inadequate source and a delapidated distribution system. As a result of the undying efforts of the town officials to persevere through a complex project, it appears as though the town will have a safe and reliable water system for many years to come.

The improvement project included a transfer of the water source from the Hunter Creek Watershed to a deep well groundwater supply. The Hunter Creek Dam was condemned as being unsafe by the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development — Land Quality Section in December, 1975. After much study and field investigation, it was determined that the cost of satisfactorily repairing the dam was prohibitive to the town therefore water could no longer impounded behind it. As a result of a feasibility study completed by Butler Associates, P.A. a consulting engineering firm from Asheville, it was decided to develop groundwater as the source of water supply to the town.

The town now has four deep wells in operation with a combined capacity of 850 gallons per minute. The present water usage averages 200 gallons per minute therefore adequate water is available for future growth of the system. The remainder of the project included approximately 21,000 lineal feet of pipe with appurtenances, two major bridge crossings, a subaqueous pipe crossing under the French Broad River, a major booster pumping station with disinfection equipment and a floating cover installed on the existing one million gallon reservoir.

The project was funded with a combination of grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce — Economic Development Administration (\$493,700); U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$187,100); N.C. Department of Human Resources — Division of Health Services (\$116,821); Madison County (\$50,000);

and loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Farmers Home Administration (\$74,000). Many components of the project have been in service since February, 1978 with all work being completed last month. Although the completion of this project solves the major water system problems confronting the town, officials are making efforts to rectify individual water problems

sporadically occurring on the extremities of the existing system. The town officials consider the people of Marshall somewhat fortunate to have this project completed, particularly in light of the water problems being experienced by other Western North Carolina towns. The town's new water system has not felt any effects whatsoever of the continuing drought with water usage curtailment measures being unnecessary.

Without this project, the town would have been out of water two months ago.

The town officials would like to thank all of the people involved in the project, particularly the funding agencies, Butler Associates, P.A. who designed and were responsible for the construction of the project and to McCall Brothers Inc.; Mountain Shore Construction Corporation; and Taylor and Murphy Construction Com-

pany Inc. who were the contractors on the project.

In order for the people of Marshall to be able to see the water facilities and better understand their operation, the town officials would like to invite the public to an open house on Nov. 19, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The open house will be held at the Lower End of Fortner Hollow along the banks of the French Broad River at the site of the water facilities.

Why Do Leaves Fall?

Trees Are Being Punished, Cherokee Legend Has It

Why do leaves fall? Not, as many might think, so wives can stick a rake in their husbands' hands and yank them from Saturday or Sunday afternoon football games on television.

And not, like scientists say, because trees stop producing plant hormone and chlorophyll, the leaves' food-making green pigment, causing eventual suffocation.

Riding Mishap Is Fatal To Youth

Christopher Allan Buckner, 13, of Route 7, Marshall, (Big Pine community), died in a horse riding accident Monday near his home.

The Madison County Sheriff's Department reported that the boy apparently fell from his horse and was dragged by the animal until noticed by a neighbor in the Big Pine section who summoned the rescue squad. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Buckner. He was a student at Walnut Elementary School.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at the North Fork Baptist Church on Big Pine at 2 p.m.

The Rev. Frank Plemons and the Rev. Gray Fisher will officiate. Cousins will serve as pallbearers. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Surviving in addition to the parents is a brother, Richard, stationed with the Air Force in Michigan.

The real reason is that trees that lose their leaves suffer a recurring punishment for failing to endure a task.

So says a Cherokee legend, which in these parts can be considered fact. It goes like this:

Back at the beginning of time when the world was being created (no one's sure by whom) the animals and plants were told to stay awake and stand watch for seven nights.

All did through the first night, but by the second some had fallen asleep. More abandoned the vigil the third night and more the fourth. By the end of the seventh night, only the panther, the owl and one or two others of the animals were still awake. Those animals were given the power to see and go about in the dark and prey on those that had to sleep at night.

Of the trees, only the cedar, pine, spruce, holly and laurel were awake. To them was given the power to be always green and greatest for medicine. To the others it was said, "because you have not endured you will lose your hair every winter."

That explained, some may ask why leaves turn beautiful colors before they fall. There the Cherokees apparently let us down.

No less a source than Cherokee folklorist Mary Chittoskey knows of no legend explaining that phenomenon. Neither does Duane King, director of the Cherokee Museum.

But maybe some poetic license can help. Probably instead of maintaining their

vigil those trees were out painting the town red. Since then they've kept up the tradition; they've just expanded their assortment of colors.

Nursing Center Approval Sought

Kenneth P. Gummels, Paragon Investments Inc., filed notice on Nov. 7 of intent to incur a capital expenditure for the purpose of acquiring approval of the \$471,500 cost overrun for the proposed 100-bed Madison Manor Nursing Center in Mars Hill.

The project proposal has been submitted to the N.C. Department of Human Resources, State Health Planning and Development Agency, for review by planning agencies under provisions of the Social Security Amendments of 1972.

The planning agencies, in examining the proposal, will seek to determine whether the project is needed, if it can be adequately staffed and operated, whether it is economically feasible within prevailing rate structures, and if it proposes specific cost-containment features.

Copies of the proposal have been referred to the Facility Services Division of the N.C. Department of Human Resources and to the Western N.C. Health Systems Agency Inc. in Morganton for review as required by federal law.

In its role as coordinator of project reviews under Section 1122 of the Social Security Act, the N.C. Department of

Human Resources, through its state Health Planning Agency, will receive the advice of the state and regional agencies about the conformity of the project to their standards and criteria.

The department will then decide on the recommendation to be made to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare concerning the project.

Examination Ordered For Buckner

Judge Ray Braswell deferred judgment after a show-cause hearing here last Friday for John Kenneth Buckner, 40, of Route 1, Marshall, who is charged with murder in the fatal shootings of a brother and sister.

Braswell ordered that the defendant be sent to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh for examination as to his competency to stand trial.

The suspect is a disabled veteran of World War II and has a history of treatment in state mental institutions.



A BATCH OF FRENCH FRIES could be made from this 3-pound, 8½-inch long potato Arthur Collins of Clyde dug recently. Collins, a former Enka employee and construction worker, raised a

good crop of beans, corn, okra and potatoes this year, but as he says, "These potatoes just outdid themselves."

Comment Period Changed For 1979 ACP Program

Proposed procedures and practices for the 1979 ACP will be published in the Federal Register about Nov. 14 after which the public will have 30 days in which to submit written comments on the proposals, according to Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

This is two weeks later than the earlier announced tentative date of Nov. 1 for publishing the proposals in the

Federal Register. Because of the later publishing date, the comment period is changed from 60 to 30 days in order for the new program to be ready for operation by Jan. 1, Fitzgerald said.

The agriculture, rural development, and related agencies appropriations act, for fiscal year 1979 provides that ACP assistance will not be used for carrying out measures and practices that are primarily production oriented or that have little or no conservation or pollution abatement benefits.

Fitzgerald said implementation of these provisions of the act will be achieved through the establishment of: criteria for determining the practices eligible for ACP assistance; guidelines for directing assistance toward situations

in which practices can be expected to yield significant public soil or water conservation, or pollution abatement benefits; and procedures to facilitate approval of solutions to local soil conservation, water conservation, or pollution abatement problems not addressed by practices thought to meet the national criteria.

Written comments may be delivered by mail or in person to Alan Durick, acting director, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, Room 3096 South Building, USDA-ASCS, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Fitzgerald said final details on the 1979 ACP will be announced about Dec. 26 and these guidelines, procedures, and practices will become effective Jan. 1.

County Hosts Committee For Aging

The members of the Greater Ivy Lunch Club shared their beautiful new surroundings with Land-of-Sky Regional Council's Advisory Committee for Aging last Thursday morning.

Dr. Grover Angel and Mrs. Lucile Burnette are the residents of Madison County on the committee. Dr. Angel represents the region's elected officials and Mrs. Burnette, the Madison County Council on Aging, as its chairperson.

The agenda for the meeting included discussions of the approval of the Marshall Senior Center grant for over \$48,000, an identification program for medical emergencies that will be implemented in the next few months and long-range planning. Advisory Committee members and the local Council on Aging are being encouraged to update their goals for the next year in the

Little Pine Creek Bridge Contracted

The N.C. Board of Transportation Friday awarded 13 contracts for highway construction and improvements across the state. The contracts totaled \$4,301,789.72. Since July of this year (beginning of the state's fiscal year 1979), the Hunt administration has awarded \$86,409,657.

Of special interest to Madison County was the awarding of a contract to replace the bridge and approaches over Little Pine Creek west of Marshall.

The contract was awarded to Asheville Contracting Co. of Asheville for \$182,091. It calls

for replacing the bridge with a concrete culvert and grading, drainage and paving work. The culvert will be installed in the same place as the existing bridge. The culvert will be constructed in stages to allow traffic through the construction site.

Work is scheduled to begin in December of this year and is expected to be completed in August 1979.

In Highway Division 13, Madison County is represented on the Board of Transportation by John M. Gilkey of Blanton.



JAMES HIGHTOWER, an 11-year-old Canton resident, found this bird stranded in the parking lot of Wells Funeral Home. It's a grebe, a swimming and diving bird related to loons, and was apparently on its way from north to south when it landed in heavy fog, perhaps mistaking the paved surface for a lake. Grebes are only able to take off from water, so James took this one to Lake Junaluska after stopping for a picture.