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On the Inside . . .

CDP prepares
for annual awards

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Superior Court Clerk Honored With Retirement Party

By JIM STORY

"This is worth all the worries and responsibilities I've had in the past years as clerk of superior court," Judson Edwards said at the retirement party held in the courtroom on Wednesday afternoon of last week. "I surely do appreciate this (party) as it came as a complete surprise," he stated.

The retirement party he was speaking of was spearheaded by his staff composed of Irma Sprinkle, Thula Norton and Peggy

Sawyer, as well as other courthouse personnel and friends.

Long before 2 p.m., when the party was scheduled to start, people started assembling in the courtroom so as to keep it a surprise to the honoree. On the dot of 2 p.m., Judson was escorted to the courtroom and when he entered the door he was speechless as he saw more than 50 friends and members of his family in the audience. Beside Judson was Clarice, his wife, who sat with him at a beautifully decorated table bearing cookies, nuts, punch, and a huge

checkerboard cake, which was appropriate since Judson's main hobby is playing and winning checker games. Also present were Judson's daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Briggs Jr.; his grandson, Jimmy Briggs; his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clay Edwards; his niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. S.L. Nix.

At the table were Zeno H. Ponder and W.T. (Bill) Moore, Democratic leaders.

The informal and spontaneous "program" was started by Ponder who, as usual, told several jokes and praised Edwards for his service to the county in years past.

W.T. Moore, of Spring Creek, sometimes referred to as "Mr. Democrat of Madison County" then told of his association with Edwards and emphasized the qualities which have made Edwards such a fine and devoted clerk of court. He also praised other Democratic officeholders and especially commended the staff in the clerk's office for "outstanding efficiency."

"We hate to see Judson retiring but we have a fine successor in Jim Cody as the new clerk of court," Moore said.

Superior Court Judge, Ronald Howell, was also asked to make a few remarks. Howell spoke of his association with Edwards as clerk, stating that he had enjoyed knowing Edwards for the past eight years and praised Edwards's stewardship and the fine records he had made as clerk. He also complimented the staff in the clerk's office.

Not only did Democrats commend Edwards, but Clyde M. Roberts, District Attorney, and attorney and former judge Bruce Briggs, both Republicans, also praised Edwards and his staff for excellent performance and cooperation.

After further remarks of commendation to Edwards and his staff, Zeno Ponder then presented Edwards a retirement gift — a Hamilton clock — from members of his staff, the courthouse personnel, and other friends.

Following this, the crowd mingled together, extending best wishes to Edwards as they enjoyed the refreshments and fellowship.

"Words cannot express my appreciation Judson said, "so I'll just say thanks for all this."

McDevitt Named To Panel

Gov. Jim Hunt has named R. Wayne McDevitt of Marshall to the 208 Area-wide Planning Advisory Committee.

McDevitt is the Western field office manager of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The committee was created by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council in Asheville to provide policy guidance for the regional water quality management program being developed by the council in accordance with section 208 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act. The advisory committee will advise the council and direct the implementation of the 208 water quality management plan.

McDevitt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar McDevitt of Marshall.



JUDSON EDWARDS, Madison County Clerk of Superior Court, is shown behind a huge checkerboard cake at a surprise retirement party held in the

courtroom here on Wednesday of last week. The clock, on the table, was presented Edwards by courthouse personnel and friends. (Photo by Jim Story)

Hot Springs Hearing On Community Needs

The Town of Hot Springs will conduct a public hearing Dec. 6 at the Hot Springs Town Hall beginning at 8 p.m. for the purposes of citizens recommendations and ideas concerning community needs for the purposes of this federal program and the preparation of an application for Community Development funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The primary objective of

Community Development funds is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income. This objective is to be achieved through the elimination of slums and blight and detrimental living conditions, conservation and expansion of housing and housing opportunities, increased public services, improved use of land, increased neighborhood

diversity, and preservation of property with special values.

The eligible Community Development activities for which funding can be received includes: acquisition of blighted, undeveloped real property needed for public purposes, public facilities and improvements including water and sewer systems, housing rehabilitation, industrial and commercial facilities for economic development, and planning administrative costs concerned with Community Development projects.

3 County Projects On Top ARC List

Three projects that would benefit Madison County residents have been included on the first priority list for the FY 1979 investment package submitted recently to the Appalachian Regional Commission by the state of North Carolina.

The submission of the investment package is a preliminary step in the approval process for individual projects. The package is now undergoing ARC review and then must receive approval by the full commission.

Mrs. Virginia H. Anderson, chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, has been informed by Gov. Jim Hunt that projects on the first priority list were: 1. Assistance for construction of a rural health clinic in Laurel. 2. The child development program (maintaining the same level of AREC participation region-wide as in 1978) 3. The

Appalachian housing program which will provide planning loans, technical assistance and site related grants to eligible applicants. The housing program will be administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The Appalachian program is a unique partnership between the federal government and states of the region. The Appalachian Regional Commission is composed of the 13 governors and a federal representative appointed by the president. Former North Carolina Gov. Robert W. Scott is the current federal co-chairman. The goal of the commission is to build a strong economic base for the region through investments in human services, community facilities, housing and highways.

Commenting on the funding package Mrs. Anderson stated, "I am pleased with the favorable consideration given to Madison County projects by the state government. These programs and others being developed will provide much needed help for our people."



Miss Mary Jane Pressley



WAYNE McDEVITT

Elementary Schools Study Lung Problems

Several schools in Madison County are taking part in a nationwide program of the American Lung Association designed to prevent small children from choking on or breathing in foreign objects into their lungs.

"Several thousand children die each year as the result of such accidents," said Gertrude Ramsey, program director of WNC Lung Association, area sponsor of the activity, "and thousands more suffer lung damage, pain and illness. This program, furnished without cost to schools as a service you provide with Christmas Seals, is designed to save these youngsters."

Madison County Elementary schools taking part include Marshall, Walnut, Laurel, Spring Creek, Mars

Hill and Hot Springs. Robert Edwards, superintendent of Madison County Schools, is honorary chairman of the activity offered to all schools in the county. Mrs. Leonard Baker and Mrs. James Story, members of the board of WNC Lung Association, are in charge of distributing the kits to the participating schools.

Kindergarten and first grade children in these schools will have three special classroom sessions during which they learn the concept of breathing in which air enters and is expelled from the lungs; eating, in which foods enter the mouth and stomach, and they learn what not to put in their mouths. The kits also include letters which may be sent home to parents



SUPERINTENDENT R.L. EDWARDS, right, is shown explaining the Lung Kit and guide to members of th Walnut K and first grade Monday morning. Madison County elementary schools are

taking part in a nationwide program sponsored locally by the WNC Lung Association. On extreme left is Winnie Broglin, K and first grade teacher at Walnut

FHA Crowns 'Snow Queen'

Mary Jane Pressley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P.I. Pressley, of Marshall, was crowned FHA Snow Queen at the FHA dance at Madison High School on Nov. 18. Participating in the crowning ceremony were David Wyatt, principal of Madison High, and Sid the Surf, disc jockey for WISE radio station in Asheville.

Mary Jane is a senior and is president of the FHA Club at Madison High. She is also a member of the volleyball and softball teams and manager of the varsity girls' basketball team. She is reporter for the Future Business Leaders of America, a member of the Monogram Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is also president

of the Marshall 4-H Club. Mary Jane was the coach of the 8-12-year-old girls in the Marshall summer recreation program.

A total of \$733.62 was collected for March of Dimes. Mary Jane collected a total of \$218.50. Other girls participating included Brenda

Coward, freshman; Debra Norton, senior; Regine Costes, sophomore; Sherri Ramsey, senior; Hattie Murray, sophomore; Arlene Young, sophomore; Wilma Albers, junior; Jill Brown, sophomore; and Vickie Anders, sophomore.

Oath Of Office

The duly elected officers as certified by the Madison County Board of Elections in the Nov. 7 general election will be administered the qualifying oath of office at 10 a.m. next Monday at the Madison County Courthouse, Marshall, N.C. Officers to be sworn in are:

was announced this week. The regular meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, presided by Chairman, will be held on the 15th of the month. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on the 22nd of the month.