

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the Inside . . .

What's going on
at ARBEE Company? See
photo feature on page 3!

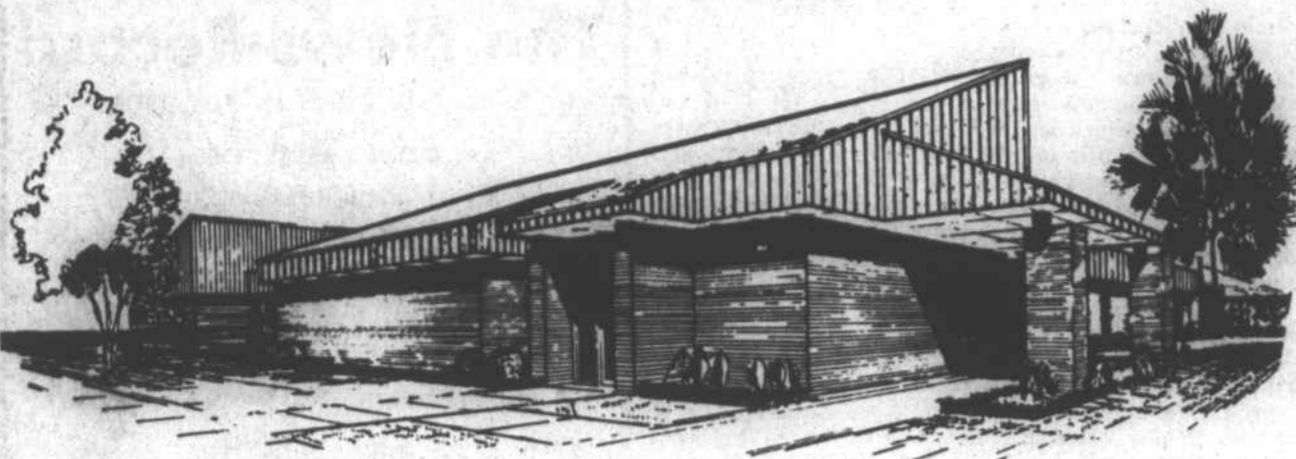
78th Year, No. 9

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

THURSDAY, March 1, 1979

15¢ Per Copy

\$2.5 Million School Loan Approved



ARCHITECT'S version of the new French Broad EMC office building which will be located on N.C. 213 between Marshall and

Mars Hill. In addition to the headquarters office, there will also be the meter shop and warehouse.

French Broad EMC Contract For New Building Approved

By CHARLES R. TOLLEY
Manager

We were shocked when we opened bids for the new office facilities. Every bid that we received was above the budget set up for the project. However, the building has been in the planning stages for many months, and the budget was made up in preparation for a loan application more

than a year ago. During this time lapse building costs continued to increase as inflation went higher and higher, and the result was high bids. The first thing the board did was ask me to go back over our plans and specifications with the architect to see if any deletions could be made. Now, the plans and specifications call for a very conservative building with no frills at all. In

going over those plans, we felt that everything that had been put in them was needed, and if anything was deferred now it would have to be added at a later date and at a higher cost. After careful consideration of all these things, the board voted unanimously to accept the bid of Hickory Construction Co. of Hickory in the amount of \$1,437,533 for the construction of these

facilities. It was announced Monday that the REA has approved the contract. The new facilities, to be located on N.C. 213 between Marshall and Mars Hill, will house the headquarters office, the Marshall district office, the meter shop and warehouse. It will also include a drive-in window for the convenience of the members.

Ervin Adams, chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, has been notified by the Farmer's Home Administration of its approval of a loan to Madison County in the amount of \$2,500,000 to be used for the construction of a new school to house the Marshall-Walnut elementary schools and for certain other needed capital improvements to the other existing elementary schools in the county.

Although the county commissioners have been successful in securing the approval of this \$2,500,000 loan from the Farmer's Home Administration, the actual making of such loan is dependent upon the voters of the county passing a bond referendum authorizing the county commissioners to borrow such funds.

Unless the voters pass the bond referendum,

the county will not borrow the funds from the Farmer's Home Administration.

The bond referendum will be held this spring and further details with regard to the exact date of the bond referendum will be announced next week. The loan, if approved by the voters, will be repaid over a period of 40 years at an interest rate of 5 percent. This means that the county will be able to repay the money borrowed over a 40-year period instead of the normal 20-year period and will be borrowing the funds at a greatly reduced interest rate, and thus the amount by which taxes would have to be raised to repay the loan would be greatly reduced. Further details with regard to the exact amount of the tax increase which would be necessary will be announced in the immediate future.

Sharon Ray Resigns Election Board Post



EDGAR P. ISRAEL

Sharon Ray of Route 3, Marshall, officially resigned as supervisor, Madison County Board of Elections, last Friday at a meeting of the board in the election offices here.

Miss Ray has served for the past seven years under both Democratic and Republican administrations and has been commended for her outstanding ability in carrying out the duties in this responsible position.

In a previous letter of resignation to Alex K. Brock, director, State Board of Elections, Raleigh, Miss Ray stated that her resignation would become effective May 1.

She further stated that she had been considering returning to school for some months and "feel that my resignation at this point will provide adequate time for my replacement to become

familiar with the responsibilities and duties of this position. I will fully cooperate with your office and the members of this board in the matter of training my successor."

Miss Ray also stated in her letter to Brock, "May I take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to you for the guidance and support you gave me over the last seven years. I feel sure that the depth and perspective I have gained from the experience of these seven years will be of direct benefit to me in my studies."

Mrs. Pat Franklin, chairman; Oscar McDevitt, member; and William B. Zink Jr., member, commended Miss Ray at the meeting Friday for her service as supervisor of elections.

Following are excerpts from a letter from Brock in regard to Miss Ray's resignation:

"This decision on your part does not come as a great surprise to us since you have discussed such a probability with us previously.

"Nevertheless, we accept the decision with a sense of anticipated loss. You have served for some seven years and have participated during years of the most constructive changes ever achieved in our elections processes.

Therefore, you can feel proud of the service rendered to Madison County even though you, like many others, have



MISS SHARON RAY

encountered challenges not easily dealt with.

"We appreciate your years of service as supervisor of elections in Madison County and assure you that you have been an asset to the state of North Carolina and Madison County.

"It is easier to lose you knowing that you intend to pursue higher education to equip you to accomplish greater tasks. We commend your decision because your real potential will more quickly be realized."

Jury Finds Buckner Insane At Time Of Fatal Shooting

BULLETIN

An order of commitment signed by Judge Clifton E. Johnson in Bakersville Monday is that John Kenneth Buckner be confined to Broughton Hospital in Morganton for a period not to exceed 90 days.

★ ★ ★

In the second degree murder case of John Kenneth Buckner, 45, of Route 1, (Worley Cove), the jury returned a verdict Friday afternoon that the defendant had killed his brother and sister last Oct. 21 but that he was insane at the time.

The case consumed the entire one-week term of Superior Court here with Judge Clifton Johnson

presiding. The victims of the shooting were Arthur Buckner, 41, and Hope Caldwell Buckner, 41. The shooting occurred at the farm home in the Worley Cove section. District Attorney Clyde Roberts said Buckner, for whom he sought a conviction of second degree murder, will be taken before Judge Johnson in Bakersville Monday.

The judge will have authority to order Buckner's confinement in a mental hospital for not more than 90 days. Confinement can be continued at subsequent hearings for similar 90-day periods, it was stated.

A sister of the defendant, Pansy Watkins; her husband, John Watkins; and a cousin, Carl Walker; were among the state witnesses Wednesday.

D.M. Branch Jr., SBI ballistics expert; Dr. George Lacy, pathologist; and Dr. Otis Duck presented testimony as to the 30-30 rifle used and the cause of death of the two victims.

Testimony pointed to the defendant being awakened in his bedroom and firing the rifle unexpectedly at his brother and sister.

The defense sought a verdict of innocent by a reason of insanity.

The defendant had been a mental hospital patient.

The prosecution rested its case Wednesday after presenting a battery of wit-

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Israel Succeeds Mallonee

Edgar P. Israel, Transylvania County manager, has been named 11th Congressional District field representative by Congressman Lamar Gudger. His appointment Thursday by Gudger followed the announcement that Thomas L. Mallonee, district assistant for over 13 years, will retire at the end of March.

Israel's appointment is effective April 1.

Prior to being named manager of Transylvania County in March 1977, he had served as director of the Haywood County Department

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Mrs. Anderson Recommended

Mrs. Carol Anderson of Hot Springs was recommended by the Madison County Board of Elections (two votes to one) at its meeting last Friday to serve as deputy supervisor until May 1 under the supervision of the Board of Elections.

Medical Facility

Fund Drive Will Begin Thursday

The building committee of the new Laurel Medical Facility announced plans today for a door-to-door fund-raising campaign. According to Dennis Tweed, chairman of the group, the campaign will begin March 1, and extend through March 4. The purpose of the drive will be to collect at least \$10,000 toward the 20 percent matching funds needed for the construction of the \$144,000 family medical service project.

Tweed stated that every family in the Laurel community will be contacted by neighbors who will be volunteering their time to assist with the campaign. All amounts of donations will be accepted.

Donors who contribute \$200 or more can reserve a room honorarium or memorial in

the name of the donor's choice. Door plaques will be used to denote these contributions. A large plaque will also be placed in the facility with the names of each contributor of \$100 or more. Individuals and families living outside the area are also invited to contribute.

All donations are tax deductible and checks should be written to the Laurel Medical Center. Donations may be given to the individual fund raisers or sent to the treasurer for the project, Mrs. Helen W. Shelton, Route 3, Box 71, Marshall 28753.

Pledges for donations will also be taken, however. All pledges should be paid within three months.

The new modern well-equipped facility will be located at Bates on property

sold by H.W. Cook; this site is at the junction of N.C. Highways 206, 212, and 1519. If the fund raising is successful, the funds will be combined with funds from a pending \$120,000 Appalachian Regional Commission construction grant.

The new center will be staffed by a physician, family nurse practitioner, clinic aide and receptionist. Services offered at the medical facility will be delivered in conjunction with the Hot Springs Health Program.

Following the fund-raising drive, a follow up meeting for all fund drive workers, contributors and building committee members is scheduled on March 15 at 7 p.m. at Laurel Elementary School to

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NOT THE DEEPEST, but perhaps the most beautiful snow of the year fell here Sunday night. Every branch and limb of trees were covered, and telephone and

electric wires resembled white ropes and all shrubbery was picturesque. Above is a photo taken on Skyway Drive Monday morning as snow was still falling.

Ponder Appointed Representative To Regional Forum

Mayor Lawrence Ponder of Marshall has been appointed as Region B's representative to the Joint Regional Forum for the calendar year 1979. He was notified of this honor by Jim Melvin, president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Raleigh.

Ponder is second vice president of the Land-of-the-Sky organization, where he has worked for industrial growth in this area. He has also served as director, Madison County Industrial Development Commission.

The Joint Regional Forum is a committee which is cooperatively formed by the North Carolina League of Municipalities and the County Commissioners Association to work in cooperation with the league and association and the regional organizations in the

development of policies and suggestions for appropriate regional activities throughout our state.

In the past year, the Joint

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LAWRENCE PONDER