

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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New Fire Truck Set For Duty In Marshall

Residents of the Smoky Mountain Fire District received a large Christmas present last week in the form of a brand-new fire truck capable of hauling 1,000 gallons of water.

The 1980 GMC truck, which cost more than \$58,000, arrived on Dec. 21, after having been on order since August. It was built by Emergency One Inc. of Ocala, Fla. With its all-aluminum body, extra-large engine, air brakes, and Hale pump capable of pumping 1,000 gallons of water per minute, it is one of the finest fire trucks made.

Jackie Jenkins, Jimmy Ramsey and Jack Ramsey

traveled to Columbia, S.C. Friday to take delivery of the truck.

The truck has been purchased by residents of the Smoky Mountain Fire District, which extends for four miles in every direction from the fire house door in Marshall. Funds for the purchase were raised by a bond issue.

Fire officials believe that the new truck will provide faster, more effective coverage of homes within the district. Previously, only the two small trucks were free to fight fires in the district. One of these carries 535 gallons of water, and the other 385 gallons. The third truck,

which carries 750 gallons, has been required to remain in Marshall for the protection of residents there.

Also important, officials emphasize that the new truck carries 1,000 gallons of water, which is the capacity required by the N.C. Insurance Services' Office. After inspection by officials of the insurance office, and the purchase of any further equipment deemed necessary by these officials, citizens living within the district, Smoky Mountain Fire District should see a reduction in their fire insurance premiums.

It is also hope that the fire district tax rate of \$0.15 per \$100 valuation (the highest

allowed by law) will be lowered after the initial expenses involved with the acquisition of this new truck are met. This, in turn, would lower the cost of fire protection to the SMFD residents for the years to come.

One of the special features of the new truck is a 1,500-gallon folding portable tank which is carried to each fire. The truck is capable of emptying its full load of 1,000 gallons into this tank in 45 seconds, through a special five-inch diameter "jet-pump" feature built into the pumping system. This capability will allow the truck to leave its water supply at a fire and go to a water source for refilling while other trucks or portable pumps stay to fight the fire.

A typical fire at a single-family dwelling requires between 1,000 and 3,000 gallons of water to extinguish.

In fighting a fire, two features of the truck are crucial: the carrying capacity and the pumping capacity. A truck can carry huge amounts of water, but unless it can deliver the water at sufficient volume, it may not be able to extinguish a hot fire. The powerful Hale pump on the new truck greatly increases the pumping capacity available to residents. Members of the Marshall Fire Department say that with the new truck they will be able to save some buildings that in the past would have burned to the ground.

The truck will be operated by members of the Marshall Community Volunteer Fire Department Inc. through contact with the Madison County Board of Commissioners. Financing was arranged through the Farmer's Home Administration.

Annual payments of more than \$4400 will be met through the special fire district tax, which was approved by voters in November 1977. The current fire tax rate of \$0.15 per \$100 valuation should provide approximately \$9000 per year to the fire department. In addition to meeting the annual truck payments, the money will be adequate for other fire protection agreements in the contract, as well as truck maintenance, insurance, and upkeep costs.

An advanced communications system is one of the next priorities of the fire department.

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MARSHALL'S NEW FIRE TRUCK arrived in town last Friday from Columbia, S.C. The truck, an all-aluminum emergency one body on a 1980 GMC chassis, has a 1,000-gallon tank capacity and a special 1,500-gallon portable folding tank.

It will serve all residents of the Smoky Mountain Fire District, which extends 4 miles in all directions from the fire house door in Marshall.

Marshall Playground Over Its Major Funding Hurdle

After more than a year of waiting and planning, the town of Marshall has finally received encouraging news about its Town Playground and Neighborhood Park project. The grant requested by the town has been recommended for funding by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (formerly the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation).

One final step remains: official approval by the Service's office in Atlanta. When that approval is given, work on developing the playground and park can begin.

Mayor Lawrence Ponder

was advised of the news last week by Howard N. Lee of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources & Community Development. The project was recommended for approval by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Review Committee.

Marshall applied for the grant in September 1978, requesting \$21,750 in government money to be matched by \$21,750 from local sources. The town will decide soon how its portion of the expenses are to be raised.

The plan for the playground was initiated by the Town Recreation Commission, which was appointed by the

Board of Aldermen to seek out more varied recreational opportunities for town residents. At present, the only facilities available are the outdoor swimming pool at the playground site and the softball diamonds on the island.

The site for the project is the 6.8-acre area owned by the town just off Skyway Drive, within the town limits and behind the Madison Shopping Plaza on the Marshall Bypass.

The Madison Opportunity Corporation is presently using the building adjacent to the swimming pool.

When finished, the area will offer to residents a "tot lot"

for young children, two tennis courts, a multi-purpose slab for basketball and other sports, 12 picnic shelters with tables and benches, a large picnic pavilion, and better parking areas, as well as the swimming pool already in use. There will be a pattern of well-defined walking paths with handrails and ramps for handicapped and older persons.

The tennis courts will be available not only to the general public, but also to students at the high school, which will be able to offer tennis as part of the physical education program for the first time.

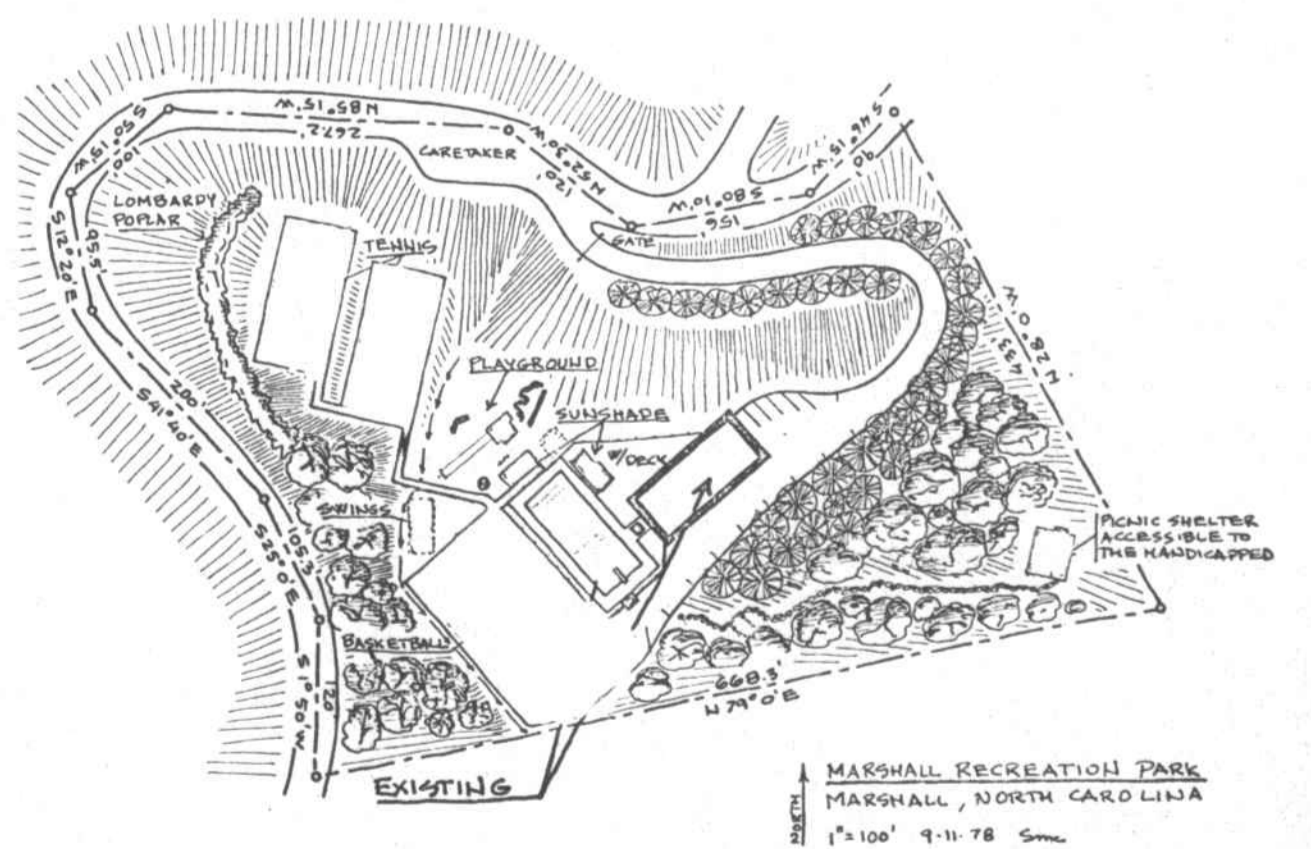


DIAGRAM of the planned Marshall Playground area show tennis courts, playground, picnic areas, swings, basketball

slab and poplar trees that will be planted around the edges.

State Raises Liability Level For Motor Vehicle Insurance

Minimum liability insurance levels for vehicles registered in North Carolina will be raised Jan. 1, 1980, but the new coverage requirements do not affect current policies until their renewal date after Jan. 1, according to the state's motor vehicles commissioner. Elbert L. Peters Jr. pointed

out that the last session of the General Assembly raised the financial responsibility for automobile liability insurance. The new minimum levels are: \$25,000 for bodily injury or death of one person; \$50,000 for bodily injury or deaths of two or more people; and \$10,000 for property damage.

Previously, the figures were \$15,000, \$30,000 and \$5,000.

Peters said, however, he wanted to reemphasize that the new minimum levels are not required on policies renewed prior to Jan. 1, 1979.

The state's motor vehicle owners must certify their insurance coverage on registration renewal notices when pur-

chasing new tags or stickers. The 1980 vehicle registration renewal notices were mailed Dec. 17 by the Motor Vehicles Division.

Sales of 1980 validation stickers and license plates begin Jan. 2. The new tags and stickers must be displayed no later than midnight Feb. 15.



LUNCH BREAK at Deringer is gathering time for employees Ruth Ramsey, Pappy Crowe, Ollie Robinson, Ethel Jenkins,

Kathleen Shelton, Margaret Wilde, Richard Wilson and Pauline Malone.

Madison Industry:

On/Off Switches Depend On Deringer's Contacts

Deringer Manufacturing Co., one of Madison County's largest employers, plays an important role in producing components essential to the nation's automobiles, appliances, and electrical switches.

Deringer's specialty is electrical contacts — tiny plugs of metal that efficiently conduct electricity whenever a switch is closed in any of thousands of electrical systems.

These contacts are made of more than 60 combinations, or alloys, of highly conductive metals such as nickel, gold, silver, tungsten, copper, steel, and aluminum.

They are found, for example, in the timing units of all Maytag washing machines (silver cadmium oxide); the on-off switches of Electrolux vacuum cleaners (silver); the window lifts of Ford and General Motors cars (nickel-coated steel); points for distributors sold by Delco-Remy (tungsten steel); contact blades for Cadillac air conditioners; switches and contacts for most pinball and other game machines sold in this country; and a variety of relays, circuit breakers and switches sold by Square D, Cutler Hammer, and Allen Bradley.

Deringer contacts can also be found in refrigerators, dryers, auto horns and lights, modern "computer" toys, and even Christmas tree lights.

According to George Brown, a Deringer vice-president: "Deringer is the leading U.S. firm specializing in the manufacture of quality electrical contacts, contact assemblies and related products used in relays, switches,

motors, controls, and other electrical and electronic devices."

The Marshall plant was begun in 1972, with the help of Harry Clarke, the president of Western Carolina Industries, who helped the company find a place to set up operations. The first Deringer site was arranged by Kermit Cody of Marshall, who leased them the building that is now the fire house and city hall.

"Mr. Clarke and Mr. Cody were extremely helpful to us in the beginning," said Pat Clemens, who has been plant manager here since the company moved to Marshall. "They really made this move possible." Clemens has been with the company since 1956. The firm was founded in 1950; its headquarters are in Mundelein, Ill., about 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

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Vehicle Registration Begins

North Carolina motorists should have received their 1980 vehicle registration renewal notices, according to Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Elbert L. Peters Jr.

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Division mailed approximately 4.5 million renewal cards Dec. 17, Peters said.

Sales of 1980 validation stickers and license plates begin Jan. 2. All registration renewals, stickers or tags, must be displayed no later than midnight Feb. 15.

State Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw noted the 1979 session of the General Assembly passed legislation which enables the Division of Motor Vehicles to create a "staggered" registration system for the state beginning in 1981.

He pointed out that the 1980 renewal period will be the next to the last time that North Carolina's motorists will purchase stickers or tags under the current system.

"Through implementation of the staggered registration system and current steps we are taking in our operations, we are carrying out Gov. Jim Hunt's commitment to provide the best possible service to the state's citizens and his pledge for greater efficiency

Marshall Gets \$40,000 Grant Toward Plant

The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the city of Marshall \$40,004 toward the plans and specifications of a wastewater treatment plant, Congressman Lamar Gudger has announced.

The EPA award will cover 75 percent of the costs of the plans, which will cover two pump stations, force mains and interceptors. The plans are being prepared by Butler Associates of Asheville.

in government," Bradshaw said.

The transportation secretary pointed out that the motor vehicle fees make up about 30 percent of the state's highway fund revenue.

Bradshaw said the vehicle registration fees will be the same as 1979 with fees for each vehicle printed on the renewal cards. The fee for a private passenger automobile is \$16. Of that amount, \$3 is for driver's education expenses.

The stickers and tags may be purchased in person from one of 115 license plate agencies across the state or by mail from the Motor Vehicles Division in Raleigh.

Vehicle owners who have not received a renewal card by Jan. 15, 1980, or who need to report a change of address should notify the Vehicle Services Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, 1100 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh 27697 or call (919-733-3025) from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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