

County Board Hires DSS Director

At its regular monthly meeting March 7, the county Board of Commissioners agreed to hire Anita Davie as director of the Department of Social Services.

DDS Board Chairman Jackie Ball told the commissioners that the board had met on Feb. 25 and, based on a review of applicants on the state register, agreed that Mrs. Davie was the best qualified candidate for the job. Ball said she scored 100 on the required test, and that her

thorough knowledge of budgeting procedures as well as department administration gave her the edge over other candidates.

Mrs. Davie has served as acting director of DDS since the departure of former Director Don Harrell last fall.

In other business the board of commissioners appointed a county transportation committee, as suggested by Michael Norins, executive director of the Hot Springs Health Program. The commit-

tee consists of Norins as chairman, Robert Edwards, Teresa Zimmerman, Kevin Morley, Anita Davie, Larry Burda and James Brown.

The function of the committee will be to help secure grant money from the federal and state government to aid public transportation in the county. Public transportation is already used by the Department of Social Services, health agencies, and others, and the county cannot keep up with fuel and other costs. The

committee is needed to serve as a "lead agency" to gather up-to-date records on all vehicles, the need for garages, information on ambulances, and other data that the federal government will require.

Kevin Morley, county recreation director, brought several matters before the board. He proposed an agreement with Southern Railroad to allow the county access to the French Broad River at Barnard through the railroad's right-of-way for

recreational purposes. He also told the board that the Recreational Commission had trouble convening a quorum at meetings, so Vernon Ponder and Carol Anderson were appointed to fill out the board of the commission.

Finally, Morley describes the need for a full-time athletic director to coordinate this summer's softball program. The program, expected to draw at least 400 participants and 2,000 spectators, has grown to large to be hand-

led as a part-time chore of the director, Morley said. He said he feels it is important to continue the work he is doing administering several grants already won for the county, improving the Marshall Community Building, and overseeing the swimming pool.

"We had 280 softball games last year," Morley said, "including pre-season and post-season tournaments. Fewer people will be able to drive to Asheville for recrea-

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ANITA DAVIE, acting director of the Department of Social Services since last Friday. As such, she is responsible for administering a budget of over \$2 million, some \$220,000 of which is paid by the county. The DSS program, employing 31 persons, is second in size only to the county school system. DSS service include the Income Maintenance Unit (Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid), the Food Stamp office, service units (foster care, adoptive services, protective care), and a day care center on Laurel. Mrs. Davie was born near Forks of Ivy where her parents, Edward C. Ball and Edna Ponder Ball, still reside. She graduated from North Buncombe High School in 1964, and from UNC/Asheville in 1967 with a degree in psychology. She came to work for DSS immediately after graduation and has worked there ever since, beginning as a case worker, moving through various service programs, and in 1976 to the opposition of Social Work Supervisor. She earned an additional degree in Social Work at Mars Hill College in 1978. She is married to Tim Davie, who works at Kinco in Asheville, and has an 11-year-old son named Michael.

County Development Group Plans A Cleanup

The Community Development Council met at 7 p.m. March 6 to plan the big county-wide spring cleanup next month and to hear some advice on tactics and strategy from two guest speakers.

The meeting, held at the offices of the Agricultural Extension Service in Marshall, featured an introduction by Morris McGough, executive director of the 18-county organization and a slide presentation by Jean Webb of Quality Forward in Asheville, an aggressive litter control group.

After the slide show, Ruth Gregory, who has been named beautification coordinator for the county this year, reviewed plans for Community Development Week April 14-20, when there will be an intensive campaign to collect litter and refuse from roadsides and stream banks.

Attending the meeting were representatives of community clubs from Upper Laurel, Mars Hill, Greater Ivy, Sleepy Valley and Walnut/Brush Creek.

It was also announced that Mars Hill and Greater Ivy will be recognized in Raleigh



ERNESTINE PLEMMONS, left, and Ruth Gregory, county beautification coordinator, display this year's theme poster

for litter cleanup. A month-long drive to clean the county's roadsides and streams begins April 1.

March 24 by Keep North Carolina Beautiful officials as two of the top communities in the state.

Morris McGough announced

that the Western North Carolina Community Development Program will make available this year \$10,000 in award money for area con-

tests and \$50,000 for county contests.

"But I want to emphasize," he said, that the biggest reward a community gets

from participating in the program is what it gets from the actual participation."

He said that there are two kinds of groups eligible to participate in the development contests: organized community clubs and other groups, such as 4-H, churches, fire associations and youth groups.

He also said there will be another mobile home improvement and safety contest. The first of these was held two years ago. McGough said that mobile homes have special importance in Western North Carolina, where there are more than 25,000 such units. Mobile homes provide housing for about 15 percent of the population here compared with 5 percent nationally. The number of mobile homes here has more than doubled since 1970 and increased about 10-fold since 1960.

"I would encourage mobile home residents to get involved in community clubs," said McGough, "and urge that every county name a mobile home chairman. Interest last year was high among individual owners, but they had almost no contact with the

clubs."

He also urged the clubs to develop by-laws in order to reduce confusion and arguments and to obtain fire insurance for any buildings used by the clubs.

Jean Webb told the audience that Quality Forward is an anti-litter group in Asheville, funded two-thirds by the county and one-third by the city. It grew out of the bicentennial cleanup program and has a board of 24 people and 80 to 100 volunteers.

"There is little point in cleaning up litter unless you can sustain a program," she said. "Charlotte has managed to reduce their litter by 70 percent and they have sustained that. This is what we are aiming for."

She defined litter as "man-made or -used misplaced solid waste." She said that 60 percent of the people interviewed about litter thought it was not a problem — until they were shown slides or actual areas covered with litter. She said the main sources of littering are water, wind, traffic and animals. "Behind every piece of litter is a person

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Hot Springs Youth Killed By Gunshot After Quarrel

Eighteen-year-old Jackie W. "Wheeler" Keener was fatally shot in Hot Springs about 1:30 a.m. March 8, reported Sheriff E.Y. Ponder.

Keener's aunt, Vernie Green, 49, was arrested for the shooting, the sheriff said. She was charged with murder and released on \$10,000 bond Saturday afternoon.

According to the sheriff, Mrs. Green shot Keener once with a .22 calibre pistol from a distance of about 6 feet. Ponder said that Keener died instantly from a bullet wound to the heart.

The sheriff said that the trouble began on Spring Street when Keener jumped on his younger brother, James Keener, who lives at the same address on Spring Street as Keener, Mrs. Green, and the boys' mother, Myrtle "Sis" Stines Keener. The boys went upstairs to the apartment

where the altercation continued.

Ponder said the younger brother was told to go back down the street, which he did, but his brother followed him. So the aunt and mother went after them, moving along Spring Street. Just before the intersection of Spring Street area 25/70 the elder Keener, said the sheriff, hit and shoved

his mother, whereupon his aunt fired the pistol.

According to the sheriff, Jackie Keener worked clearing trails for the U.S. Forest Service in Hot Springs. He had been called into court several times for minor offenses.

Mrs. Green will probably be called for trial at the next session of criminal Superior Court, beginning March 27.



COMPUTER CLASS shares a laugh with 'Gandalf.'

'Gandalf' Helps Students Learn Computer Science

A creature named Gandalf is helping Madison High School students learn about computers.

This is not too surprising, since Gandalf is a computer itself. What is unusual is that Gandalf, (the name of the wizard in "Lord of the Rings"), was built by the students themselves and three faculty members.

Since the last wire was set in place about two months ago, Gandalf has been "showing off" for the members of the computer math class — playing "Dixie" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," competing with the students in games such as checkers and tic-tac-toe, playing Lunar Lander, Road Race, Stock Market, and Biorhythm.

An early version of Gandalf was the hit of last May's Science Fair at the Asheville

Mail. Gandalf's debut was described in an article in Recreational Computing magazine by Ralph Roberts.

More important, Gandalf has helped the students understand the principles of the computer, and of the electronics that make computers possible — at virtually no cost to the school or the county.

Gandalf is the brainchild of three Madison teachers — Rex Sprinkle, David Cox, and Louis Zimmerman — who spent long hours studying up on how computers work, helping the Math Club raise money to buy components, and learning by trial and error how those components go together.

The students of the Math Club were the principal fundraisers, asking for and getting help from Micro Switch, Deringer, Ika, and Ralph Roberts, and raising money

through dances and other functions. Rex Sprinkle and Louis Zimmerman, as sponsors of the Math Club, worked out the theory of the machine, while David Cox, who teaches electronics, did most of the assembly work.

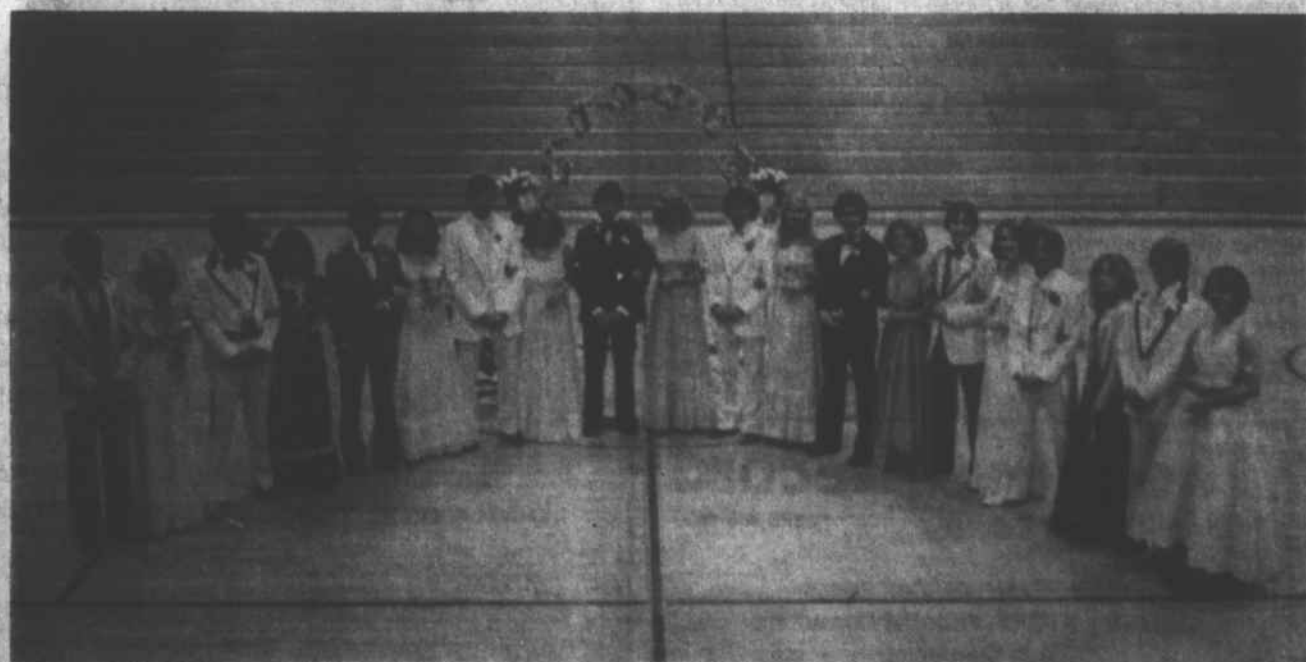
"One of the advantages of this system is that it's expandable," said Cox. "We can add other parts as we are able to raise the money."

The unit itself is built out of Motorola parts. The basic kit cost \$439, the disc system about \$200, the memory and video display unit \$1,000. A comparable computer fully assembled on the open market would cost about \$4,800 — more than twice the cost to the Math Club.

"Basically, this computer will do anything a larger computer will do," said Rex

Republican Convention Set Mar. 22

The Madison County Republican Convention will take place March 22 at 2 p.m. in the Madison County Courthouse in Marshall. The sole business of this convention is to select delegates from the county to represent the Republican Party at the congressional, district and state conventions where delegates to the 1980 Republican National Presidential Nominating Convention will be elected. All Republicans in Madison County are urged to attend.



A FASHION SHOW broke up the school routine at Madison High last week as nine elegant couples modeled formal evening wear to raise money for the yearbook. Pictured above, following the show, are Lee Hoffman, Susie Gott, Kevin Barnette, Kathy Thorpe, Paula Edwards, Tim Merrill, Kathy Pack, Marty Reese, Tim Wilde, Sue Tomberlin, Gina Worley, Foster Sawyer, Vanessa Fisher, Steve Ferguson, Renee Wyatt, Mark Fox, Michael Griffin and Sheila Rice. The show, organized by yearbook

editor Greg Bailey, classes editor Gwen Stanton, and faculty advisor Sandra Tolley, raised an estimated \$150 by charging 50 cents admission. The yearbook staff also sells ads, sells the book itself for \$10 and sponsors a dance, Derby Day, and a "womanless beauty pageant" to pay the rest of the cost of producing the yearbook. The dresses were supplied by Nancy Lynn and the tunes by Mitchell's, both of Asheville. Disco music was provided by Randy Owen.