

Heard and Seen

By POP

In listing some of the firemen who served during the 1946-50 period in this column last week, I inadvertently omitted several men including Fain Sprinkle, Craig Rudisill Jr., Paul Pegg, Robert Davis. I also goofed when I included Allen Duckett. Allen, a former fireman and fire chief, didn't serve until several years later. Apologies fellows.

Speaking of firemen, Chief Jackie Davis and several of the current firemen have "remodeled" the fire department behind City Hall and have made an enclosed room in the building. Nice going, firemen.

The startling news of the attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran and the failure of the mission has caused concern and sadness throughout the nation. The display of the bodies of the U.S. servicemen who died in the ill-fated rescue attempt in Iran is unthinkable. Add to these events the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other developments, the past few days have been most gloomy to say the least. Now is the time and need for all of us to be more united than ever.

Less than 50 persons attended the recent meeting on the Island when a film was shown and the possibility of a propane gas rail car wreck was discussed. (Story elsewhere in this issue). The public should be alerted to plans for evacuation if such a catastrophe should occur. There is entirely too much apathy shown among our citizens here as was seen by the small crowd at the meeting. Future meetings and the showing of the film should be held to acquaint the public on what has happened in Tennessee and other states where rail explosions have occurred resulting in many injured or killed. Our civil defense organization should become alerted and our public educated as to precautionary steps to be taken.

Editor's Column

Railroad Emergencies

A few weeks ago Jack Ramsey, who used to live in Marshall and who has spent much of his life around fire trucks and other emergency vehicles, brought a film to show the Marshall public. The film was about the dangers of transporting the toxic and explosive chemicals that America today lives on.

The dangers are especially acute, of course, in places that lie beside major freight transit arteries - places like Marshall and Hot Springs. It is common to count half a dozen or a dozen tank cars laden with chemicals on every Southern Railroad train that rolls through our county.

One of the typical scenes in the movie showed a tank car that had begun to leak near a small town; the town was evacuated and railroad crews began emptying the tanker. After four days of work, when the tanker was nearly empty and workers were in the process of cutting it open, it blew up.

Jack Ramsey told the sparse audience that such an explosion could destroy everything within 1,000 feet of the tanker - which, in Marshall, could mean much of the town and the elementary school. Yet there is no person or group in Marshall or Hot Springs with the knowledge or training to know what to do in such a situation. If someone knocked on your door and told you a tanker was about to blow up, which way would you run? What about school kids: How would they be evacuated toward the town or away from it?

Marshall had a mild taste of what could happen when a train derailed some years back and smashed into the back of the Coal, Feed & Lumber Co. Fortunately the cars in that section of train were carrying grain, which will not blow up no matter how fast it is going. What if the cars had carried bromine, or propane, or acid? Unhappily, the memory of that possibility has faded from most people's minds.

But not everyone's. Faye Reid stopped by the other day to say she is seriously worried by what she learned from the movie. She thinks it should be shown in the county again, soon, and that all of us should see it.

There is good sense in that suggestion. There is, for example, no civil defense coordinator here capable of forming a plan of escape for Marshall or Hot Springs in case of accident. According to Don West of the veterans' office, the Civil Defense personnel from Raleigh have said they would supply funds for half the salary of such a person, along with a part-time secretary and office equipment - if we provide an office.

If some of us saw Jack Ramsey's movie, we might see the sense in acting on this opportunity sooner rather than later. A very small amount of planning now could make a lot of difference if a railroad car should turn over in the middle of a town.

Fundraising Dinners Planned For Day Care

Fundraising dinners will be held in Marshall and Greater Ivy to benefit the county child development program.

Turkey dinners will be prepared by Maria Cox and her staff in Marshall on May 23 at the elementary school and in Greater Ivy on June 6 at the community center ((Beech Glen School). The meals will be served from 5-7 p.m., and the cost will be \$3 for adults and \$2.25 for children.

Tickets will go on sale May 1 for Marshall and May 5 for Greater Ivy. They must be purchased in advance so that customers can be insured a meal. A very limited number will be sold at the door; however, when these tickets are sold no more extra meals will be available. The goal is to sell at least 500 tickets at each site.

Proceeds will go toward the

establishment of a Day Care Scholarship Fund for families in crisis or with special needs that cannot be met through other programs. Also, half of the funds will go to the in-

dividual center for toys or special projects.

Tickets may be purchased from day care staff, board members and parents. If these dinners are successful, addi-

tional dinners will be planned for the fall in Laurel, Hot Springs and Mars Hill.

Everyone is encouraged to buy tickets for their families and friends.

Madison County Schools

1980 - 1981 School Calendar

Date	Activity	ANNUAL LEAVE OR VACATION	HOLIDAY	WORK DAYS	STUDENT DAYS	
Aug. 7	School term Begins - Teacher Work Day				1	
Aug. 8	Teacher Work Day				1	
Aug. 11	Beginning of First School Month (First Day for Students)					
Sept. 1	Holiday (Labor Day)		1			
Sept. 8	End of First School Month				20	
Sept. 22	End of First Six Weeks					
Sept. 26	NCAE District Meeting (1/2 Day Workday-1/2 Day Annual Leave)	1/2		1/2		
Oct. 7	End of Second School Month				20	
Nov. 4	Election Day (No School for Teachers or Students)		1			
Nov. 5	End of Third School Month & Second Six Weeks				20	
Nov. 11	Teacher Workday (Veteran's Day-No Students)					
Nov. 26	Primary Reading Workshop					
Nov. 26	Schools Dismiss at 1:30 P.M. for Thanksgiving Holidays					
Nov. 27	Holiday (Thanksgiving)		1			
Nov. 28	Holiday (Thanksgiving)		1			
Dec. 5	End of Fourth School Month				20	
Dec. 19	Schools Close at 1:30 P. M. for Christmas Holidays					
Dec. 22	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Dec. 23	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Dec. 24	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Dec. 25	Holiday (Christmas)		1			
Dec. 26	Holiday (Christmas)		1			
Dec. 29	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Dec. 30	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Dec. 31	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Jan. 1	Holiday (New Year's Day)		1			
Jan. 2	Annual Leave or Vacation Day	1				
Jan. 5	School Reopens for Students and Staff after Christmas Holidays, also End of First Semester					
Jan. 19	End of Fifth School Month				20	
Feb. 16	End of Sixth School Month				20	
Mar. 16	End of Seventh School Month				20	
Apr. 13	End of Eighth School Month				20	
Apr. 20	Weather Permitting-Spring Holidays Begin * Holiday (Easter)		1			
Apr. 21	Holiday (In Lieu of Memorial Day) *		1			
Apr. 22	Annual Leave Day or Vacation Day *	1				
Apr. 23	Annual Leave Day or Vacation Day *	1				
Apr. 24	Annual Leave Day or Vacation Day *	1				
May 18	Teacher Workday *				1	
May 19	End of Ninth School Month & Last Day of School				20	
May 20-29	Teacher Workdays *				10	
June 1-4	Teacher Workdays *				4	
June 5	Annual Leave Day or Vacation Day *	1				
June 6	End of School Term					
TOTAL DAYS IN TEN CALENDAR MONTHS = 217						
		TOTALS	12 1/2	8	16 1/2	180

* All annual vacation leave days, legal holidays and teacher workdays could be optional and interchangeable, as long as the number of annual vacation leave days and legal holidays meet the requirements of the law.

Letter To The Editor

Thanks For Help

Editor, The News Record: So many people are involved in expressions of sympathy, concern and gifts following the tragic burning of our home and loss of five family members in the fire that it is impossible for us to thank each one individually.

We are writing to you and hope that through your media our thanks and acknowledgments can be passed on to everyone who has been so thoughtful.

We appreciate the excellent job the Mills River Fire Department did at the scene; also the establishment of the trust fund at the Northwestern Bank with three trustees.

These gifts have made it possible for us to rearrange our lives. We would like to report that I am back at work; Charlene is back at school; and we are reestablished in a home and have adequate furniture and clothing - thanks to everyone.

CARMEL LEE MATHIS
Horse Shoe

Foster Care

Continued from Page 1

13,000 foster children in North Carolina.

"We took our results to the permanency planning meeting last month in Durham," said Mrs. Davie. "The director of the Division of Social Services, Robert Ward, seemed to be very impressed with what we have done. So we are confident we'll be able to keep it up. We'll keep sharing the work load among the three workers - Sandy, adoptive services, and protective services - and hope we get money for part of another salary."

The workers make it clear that their first priority in dealing with foster children is to return them home when possible. The second most desirable course is adoption. The third is to enter into a contract with foster and natural parents to keep the child in the same home until age 18.

Finding a permanent home for a child also saves the public money. Each foster family is paid \$125 a month for expenses, so that each child returned home saves that much. The 13 children who have been returned home since the start of the project are already saving the county \$1,625 a month.

"The money saved is a good thing," said Mrs. Davie. "But the best thing is that permanent plans are made for the kids. I think that every kid really wants a 'forever home.' This is to me the most important effect of the project. A child who is allowed to drift indefinitely from one home to another suffers great insecurity. He is not sure about his future, or who he is. Self-esteem drops."

"These problems we have known for some time. Now we know that there is a solution, and that is permanency planning."

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Thanks From EMT's

EDITOR'S NOTE: On April 17 there was a two-car wreck in Shelton Laurel involving Kevin Lee Sams and Kent Hurst, at the Franklin Mountain Road. The Emergency Medical Service was called and rushed to the scene. When they got there, a fair-sized crowd had gathered. As the technicians carefully maneuvered Hurst out of the front seat, several bystanders volunteered to help out and proved to be very effective. "They helped get a back board under him and ease him out," said one of the EMT's at the scene. "They really did an excellent job and we'd like to thank them for it."

The world would be a far better place if all crowds acted so well.

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