



Randy Rice — Spirit, Good Stout Heart

IN AN EXHIBITION of great spirit, blind Randy Rice made his way through the maze of years in the public school system, and when it was done they heaped high honor on the talented young man Sunday at graduation. Randy was led to his guitar and he sang a song of spirit, and when he finished, the people gave him their greatest spontaneous recognition - a standing ovation.

WNC Development Program Entries

A total of 94 organized communities in 16 counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation entered the 1980 Western North Carolina Community Development Program by the entry deadline, according to Morris L. McGough, executive vice president of the WNC Development Association, and Bill N. Clark of Madison County, area chairman of the program.

Now in its 31st year, the development contest is the nation's oldest grassroots, self-help community improvement program. It is sponsored by the development association in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, along with other agencies and local sponsors in the various counties.

Five communities in Madison County are taking part in the improvement and beautification program this year. These include Greater Ivy, Mars Hill, Sleepy Valley, Upper Laurel and Walnut-Brush Creek.

Buncombe County leads in the number of entries again this year with 18 communities participating. The Cherokee Indian Reservation, Henderson and Transylvania

counties follow with nine entries each.

From its beginning, the major emphasis of the community development program has been to boost community pride and spirit and to encourage people to work together to build better and more attractive areas in which to live.

With the motto, "There is no limit to what a community can do - if it wants to," a wide range of projects have been carried out by the communities over the years. These have included building over 100 community centers, starting volunteer fire departments, constructing playgrounds and ball fields, roadside parks, entrance signs and many other improvements.

Awards totaling \$10,000, provided by area business firms, industries and organizations, will be presented to areas in the WNC program showing the greatest improvement for the year. In addition, approximately \$15,000 will be awarded in local competition within the counties.

Awards totaling \$2,000 will be presented to area winners in a special beautification contest, Western North

Carolina Beautiful. One-half of this amount will go to participating clubs and one-half to a division including other organizations and groups.

Purpose of this contest is to stimulate interest in clean-up and beautification projects. A record number of thirty entries were received this year in the division for other organizations and groups. Included are the following in Madison County: Sleepy Valley Special Interest Youth Group.

Judging for the WNC Beautiful contest will be held in August, while judging for overall community progress will be done next fall.

Special judging and awards will also be provided for youth programs and activities, as well as in a Mobile Home Improvement and Safety Contest. Cash awards of \$1,200 will be presented to community clubs and individual mobile home residents having made outstanding improvements during the contest year. This is the first program of its type anywhere in the nation.

Announcement of winners and presentation of awards for the WNC Beautiful Contest will be made at a special awards luncheon in September. Announcements of winners and presentation of awards in the overall community development program will be made at the annual meeting of the WNC Development Association on Dec. 6.

Mars Hill Library Receives Grant

Mars Hill has just received \$10,000 toward funding its public library project. This is a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a foundation established in 1936 as a memorial to the younger son of the founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. In that year the brother and two sisters of Z. Smith Reynolds provided that their inheritance from his estate would go to the establishment of a trust for the people of North Carolina. One of the initial trustees of the Foundation was Z. Smith Reynolds' uncle, William Neal Reynolds, who at his death in 1951 created a trust which now provides the major portion of the Foundation's annual income.

The Foundation, drawing on the income from the Zachary

Smith Reynolds Trust and the W.N. Reynolds Trust, has now made grants totaling more than \$95 million to recipients in almost all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Major attention has been given to education and health care, with increased interest in recent years to cultural activities, rural life, the handicapped, recreational services, and some 20 other fields of concern.

This grant and the funds received from the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and the James G.K. McClure Foundation, along with the almost \$50,000 raised by the community itself, will provide matching monies required for the A.R.C. grant now being sought.

Federal Land Bank Assn. Holds Meeting

More than 700 members and guests attended the annual stockholders meeting of the Federal Land Bank Association and Mountain Production Credit Association last Thursday at the Asheville Civic Center.

The meeting was called to order by Wade Huey of Madison County, chairman of the board of directors of the credit association. W. Mack Rogers of Leicester who is chairman of the Federal Land Bank Association board of directors, gave the director's report.

Senior vice president Edwin E. Frizzell reviewed the annual reports, and Royce D. Phillips, assistant vice president, gave the financially related services report.

Rogers and Foy C. Hill were reelected to the credit association's board of directors; and Rogers and Lon F. Sluder were reelected to the Asheville board of directors for the Federal Land Bank.

The gathering was entertained by Jerry Clower, the nation's top country comedian, and 35 door prizes were given away.

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Heard And Seen ...

By POP

Jerry Clower, nationally-known humorist, was guest entertainer at the annual stockholders meeting of the Federal Land Bank Association of Asheville and Mountain Production Credit Association last Thursday night in the Thomas Wolfe auditorium in the Asheville Civic Center. Clower, who has appeared on many "talk shows" and who is also a recording artist, kept the audience laughing with his humorous style. He also stressed the basic needs in today's world, emphasizing the behavior of parents before their children. Not only is Clower an entertainer but is also known for his Christian enthusiasm as an outstanding Gideon. He was well received by the audience of about 700, many who were from Madison County. In the stockholders meeting which preceded the entertainment, Wade Huey, chairman of the MPCA board of directors, called the meeting to order. The Rev. Mike Minnix, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marshall, gave the invocation; Jake Griff, president of FCS, presided at the election of directors; other Madison County men participating included Lon Sluder. The entire program was enjoyable.

Monday - Memorial Day - was quiet around town with many places closed... however quiet, it was a beautiful day after several days of rain. Many persons observed Memorial Day with decorations in cemeteries on Sunday.

Baseball fans were glad that the predicted strike by major league players was called off at the last moment last week. I am sure both players and management had their reasons for such action, but I get a bit upset when I think about the huge salaries of many of the super stars... and the free agent system... and the fans who pay for the constant increase in salaries. I was impressed last week to read just how much certain players are paid. According to Clyde King, a New York Yankees out, he stated:

"Baseball players are treated pretty well," said King. "Take Pittsburgh's Dave Parker. If we play a complete season, Parker will come to bat about 580 times. And for each time at bat he'll make about \$1,700.

"Or take (Houston's) Nolan Ryan. If his arm holds up and he appears in 200 innings, he'll be paid about \$5,000 per inning. That's good pay. It's more than I made my first season (1944) in the major leagues (Brooklyn)."

Frankly, my heart can't bleed for many of the players who make such salaries, especially when many of them hold out for even larger paychecks before each season. Who actually pays for these enormous salaries? The fans, of course.

The Editor's Mail Bag

Editor, The News Record:

Today we know that mental illness can be prevented in many cases. This can be done through education about mental health and learning to cope with stress. There is a group of citizens trying to see that this happened - the North Carolina Mental Health Association - and during the month of May they are asking for help in this effort.

The association is involved on a statewide level in promoting legislation favorable in delivering effective mental health services. If you are interested in contributing to the Mental Health Association or would like more information about the association, you may contact Mrs. Martha Jo Carter, 689-3243 or Mrs. Texie West, 689-4049 who are the chairpersons for the Marshall and Mars Hill areas. Your contribution and support in this effort to promote positive mental health is greatly appreciated.

MARTHA CARTER



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