

Flea Market Opens Saturday To Rousing Start

Downtown Awakens To New Interest, Expects Larger Crowd This Saturday

The inception of Marshall's flea-and-farmer's market got off to a good start Saturday when more than enough vendors showed up to fill the stall spaces set up in the parking lot of the American Legion hall.

Merchants who had worked to get it off the ground said it had exceeded their expectations.

George Penland, one of the operators of Penland and Sons Department Store, said the volume of business in his store had increased tremendously as the flea market attracted a lot of walk-in traffic to the downtown area.

Darien Tweed, who operates Tweed's Auction House, said he did not recall seeing so many people in downtown

Marshall since he had been in business here.

Al Dirago, operator of the Rock Cafe, said his business had picked up tremendously. I had heard Marshall was once busy on Saturday's, but this was the first time I had witnessed it," he said.

Some problems arose in the first day which are in the process of being worked out. For one thing, most of the vendors closed up and left the lot by mid-afternoon. Merchants said that after six p.m., a number of people showed up at the lot ready to do business.

Plans are to encourage the vendors to remain open throughout the afternoon to take advantage of late shoppers. Several musicians have

also agreed to appear in the late afternoon and make music at various locations.

"If the people want to stay and dance in the streets, no one will object," said one of the booster's of the market. "We're willing to let this thing grow in whatever direction it will. It is one of the best things to happen in Marshall in a long time.

Another problem was toilet facilities. However, Penland and Sons opened their women's rest room to the ladies. Tweed said that his business will provide rest room facilities to men this coming Saturday. The Rock Cafe will also provide facilities, the owner said.

Many vendors were surpris-

ed at the reception. J.B. Reid said he did more business at Marshall than he usually did at flea markets around Asheville.

Vendors showed up from as far away as Greenville, S.C. and Greeneville, Tenn.

The opening day was rich in variety, and shoppers had available to them anything from ancient plow-points to pocket knives and talking parrots.

Merchants urged people to come back this coming Saturday, since the market is expected to attract twice as many vendors and the prospects for a spontaneous street dance and party look very good.



A VENDOR, whose business was good.

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

For Mars Hill Horse
Show Winners

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79th Year No. 26

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

THURSDAY, June 26, 1980

15¢ Per Copy

Grave Robbers Desecrate Old Tombs



THE DESECRATION of a family's dead. A vault pulled. Looking on are Frank Roberts,

Randy Combs, and family members Mrs. Peggy Dotterer and Ed Gentry.

By LEWIS W. GREEN

Graverobbers broke into two mausoleums in a secluded little family cemetery in Hot Springs last week, battered some crypts and scattered the remains of people dead for decades about the site.

Three skulls were missing from remains scattered about Rumbough Cemetery, and Sheriff E.Y. Ponder theorized that the ghouls were after jewelry and dental gold. He said the mouths of two other skeletons had been pried open with sticks in an effort to determine if they had fillings.

"There have been a lot of fantastic stories over the years about these people being buried with valuables," Sheriff Ponder said. "I do know that it was a very wealthy family at one time, and that the forebears settled in here about the time of the Civil War."

One member of the family said that despite such stories, the family in later generations had little wealth except land which was sold piecemeal over the years.

Sydney O. Izlar of Chattanooga, a grandson

of one of the dead women, said that he had been thinking for years about removing his grandmother from the crypts and placing her to rest in a grave, but had let it go.

The bodies were found Thursday after three young men from North Wilkesboro had walked up on the ridge after delivering a truckload of goods to the Blue Ridge shoe manufacturing plant, which is two or three hundred yards down the slope from the cemetery.

Sheriff Ponder said that the three young men had some time to kill during the lunch hour and wandered up to the cemetery, which is under several giant oak trees and almost out of sight across the ridge from the shoe plant.

The men finding the desecrated crypts were David Ray Johnson and Harry Rader of North Wilkesboro, and Jeff Ray of Hayes, N.C.

The cemetery site is so situated that graverobbers could easily have worked undetected during daylight hours since the back side of the cemetery bends to a sheer drop through foliage to a creek. Some deteriorated

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Shattered Crypts ... Strange Minds, Dark Thoughts

By LEWIS W. GREEN

There it was in the Rumbough Cemetery, a strange thing done to a quiet family, old pain renewed, old memories revived and new ones of horror laid on, new pain...

It is Friday. The day after the robbing of the crypts, ghoulis, reprehensible, incomprehensible.

Friday and noon and the bright June light blazes down

through trees onto a lush green ridge.

A light breeze along the grass and into the trees and the sense of the place changes and there is the mood of heavy strange pondering which belongs to old midnights of other times, other minds.

Bright June flashes onto old corpses, shattered vaults, splintered coffins, the light of the sky striking those things of secrecy and the whispered darkness of our minds.

The stark contrasts of a mountain summer day. A bird flits and across the valley softly rises the rush of the river.

Corroded handles, dry excelsior, the ancient stink, an old rosary on old hands.

Sydney O. Izlar of Chattanooga, a member of the family:

"From the days of old Egypt, the lowest form of life is a grave robber..."

For decades, tales had persisted that the family was

very rich, that those interred members in the mausoleums on the ridge had been laid away with their jewelry, gold, diamonds.

"Not rich," a family member said. "The family had land, some money. No one was buried with jewelry..." But the wealth?

Of service to the community, of accomplishment. They gave to causes, of themselves, of money, of land. A Baptist Church was built on land deeded

by Bonnie Hill, one of the long dead now tossed so carelessly from her resting place.

Mrs. Peggy Dotterer, 76, of the family:

"I remember them all quite well. James Rumbough Safford died in 1913 -- my cousin. He owned an ice plant here. In the winter he had to work some in the creek... pneumonia..."

"Bessie Mae Safford. She

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Still Confiscated By Sheriff Ponder

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder and his deputies last week dismantled a large whiskey still found in the Cutshall Town section. The

Sheriff said no one was charged, that the still was alone when found and that said still was not talking. He brought

the component parts of the still in to his department waiting for someone to come in, identify it and claim it.

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Sheriff Ponder announced the arrest of an Asheville man on housebreaking charges recently after some shrewd detective work.

John Henry Powell, 42, of Hamlet, N.C., Asheville, was arrested at the Dreamland Flea Market and charged.

Sheriff Ponder said the

home of Nate Ray at Mars Hill had been entered and several pieces of furniture removed, including a big round table three smaller ones, one antique bed, one antique sofa, four antique chairs, one antique rocking chair, one large dresser and three chests.

The Sheriff said a tire track was found in the road near the Ray home. Acting on information he found the truck at the suspect's home and later arrested the suspect at the flea market.

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Sheriff Ponder last week returned about \$20,000 worth of cable television material and components to several out-of-state firms.

He had earlier announced the arrest of Charles B. Edwards of Blacksburg, S.C. at Hot Springs.

The communications equipment was returned to the TV cable companies of Salem, Va., Blacksburg and Columbia, S.C. and two other firms.



The Sheriff's Catch

MADISON'S SHERIFF E.Y. Ponder with liquor still at jail. (Photo by Lewis W. Green)

Reward Offered

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder has offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who entered the crypts in Rumbough Family Cemetery last week. He said

any leads will be kept confidential.

The Sheriff also said that contrary to some reports, he does not have any definite suspects in the case.