

Senior Citizens Center Open On Long Branch

A new multipurpose senior citizens' center opened Tuesday on Long Branch Road adjacent to the Marshall Day Care Center. Sponsored by the Madison County commissioners, the opening of the center was the realization of plans developed almost two years ago. The center will be the central point for different functions for all of the senior citizens of Madison County.

The facility will open without charge to all county residents over 60 from 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Initial activities planned are quilting, woodworking and sewing. Various other activities will be available in the future.

The idea for the center originated with the mayor of Marshall, Lawrence Ponder, who had money available for multi-purpose Senior Citizens Center. He wanted to use space over the Marshall Town Hall. Plans were drawn up by Doug Grant of Moore Woodard Associates. The grant was

written by Land of Sky staff, which included Becky Williams, Joan Tuttle, Stephen McConnell and Connie Grove. The project was then presented to the Regional Advisory Committee by Lawrence Ponder and Dorothy Shupe, director of Madison County Council on Aging. A citizen advisory committee was then formed which included Lucille Burnette, Marty Young, Ernie Letterman, Oleta Shelton, Annie Fox, Lawrence Ponder and

Dorothy Shupe. As plans progressed, state staff sent technical and architectural support. Due to the problems encountered in remodeling the building to meet federal handicap building standards, costs increased beyond the ability of the town to pay the local match money. The cost of installing an elevator proved to be the final deterrent in town participation. Consequently Land of Sky staff and Mayor Ponder approached the county

commissioners to enlist their support so that the federal grant money would not be lost. The commissioners agreed and it was determined that the logical location was adjacent to the day care center.

The center's facilities include a kitchen area, large multi-purpose crafts and recreation room, conference room, woodworking room, storage and bathroom facilities along with office space for the aging senior coordinator and Marshall

Meal Site manager, Esther Franks, Aging Services coordinator, will supervise the facility.

Already landscaping at the site has been done through a joint effort of Marshall and Walnut senior citizens in conjunction with day care staff, parents, and other citizens. A memorial fund approximately \$90 was raised by the participants at the Marshall meal site, and relatives of those who had attended the meal site. This money was added to a

fund raised by the day care program. Landscaping plans were drawn up by Willie Duvall of the Agricultural Extension Office. Ruth Gregory from the day care board and Garland Woody from Madison High School along with his agricultural classes were in charge of the planting. Staff, parents and CETA students were also involved.

An official open house will be planned in the coming months.

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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for summer brides
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79th Year No. 27

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

THURSDAY, July 3, 1980

15¢ Per Copy

Elementary School All Marshall, Walnut Classes Eventually Will Be Consolidated



MRS. JOHNNY CANTRELL holds Gary Scott Cantrell, born in ambulance as her other children, Levonna, 10, and Richard, 11, look on. (Photos by Lewis W. Green)

Madison County Board of Education has decided to consolidate Marshall and Walnut elementary schools on a new campus adjacent to Madison High.

It will take years, but that is the long-range plan. The school will be built piece meal, a little at a time as the board can find money to pay for new construction.

County voters turned down a bond issue to finance the school two years ago, but Supt. of Schools Robert Edwards does not believe they were against the school, just the heavier tax burden bonds could have brought.

So the board of education has decided, Edwards says, to

proceed with the school, building a little at a time.

"People want the school, but they can't afford to pay any more taxes," Edwards said Monday.

"We're going to piece meal it until we get a complete school - until we have (grades) kindergarten through eight at the new site."

The site is a 53-acre tract on which Madison High is

located.

Edwards sees nothing wrong with having the high school as a neighbor. "I see no problem," he said. "We can fence it if there is. We have no drug problem down here of any consequence."

An architect is designing the new school now. Plans are to seek bids on approximately 10 classrooms as soon as the design has been approved by

the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction Division of Schoolhouse Planning.

It is expected to cost in excess of a half million dollars, the sum the board says it has to apply to the project.

Edwards says he has budgeted \$100,000 for capital outlay this year. "If we can put another \$100,000 in next year - that'll build three or four more classrooms."

Plans are to move classes kindergarten through three from Marshall and Walnut elementary to the new school as soon as the first classrooms are built. Other classes will be moved as new construction permits, until all eight grades have been transferred to the consolidated school.

The new campus will not include a cafeteria initially. Continued on Page 2

July Fourth

... Mars Hill

The Mars Hill Lions Club has planned three evening events for the Fourth of July celebration there.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a Blue Grass and Gospel program at the athletic field at the Mars Hill Elementary School, followed by a big fireworks display. Admission fee for the double event is 75 cents for children and \$1.50 for adults.

From 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., a disco dance will be held. Admission will be \$2.50 per person.

... Hot Springs

The annual Hot Springs July 4th celebration will kick off at 1 p.m. on Friday.

The event, sponsored by the Hot Springs Lions Club, will host fun and games for folks of all ages. Some of these are bingo and dart throwing.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, and soft drinks will be served all day long. The days activities will be capped off by a fireworks display beginning at 9:45 p.m. on the grounds of the Blue Ridge Shoe plant.

According to Lions President Gene Autry, "This years celebration will top last years. As you know our fireworks show got rained out last year. But if the good Lord's willing we'll have skyrockets amongst the stars this year."

Cannisters for donations to help the Lions pay for the fireworks will be located at the front gate of the plant.



UP IN THE AIR... over summertimes water, a boy jumps - photo essay on the Marshall pool on Page 2.

Photo By Lewis W. Green

60 Attend Awards Banquet

By JIM STORY

"Knowledge, effort and drive are the three ingredients to success," Ed Taylor, supervisor, Micro Switch, told an audience of more than 60 persons who attended the second annual Madison County Safety Awards banquet held in the Madison High School cafeteria on Tuesday night of last week.

Taylor commented that "the things we say and do build a safety program and the most important attribute in any safety program is total participation." The main speaker also congratulated the firms and individuals who received certificates noting safety records during the past year but reminded the audience

that not only those receiving awards should be congratulated but those not getting recognition played a great part in the safety program. "Everyone, every employer and employee who participated should be proud of the fine safety records attained in the county," he stated.

Taylor was introduced by Larry Burda, employee relations manager of Micro Switch plant at Mars Hill.

Hal Johnson, manager, Northwestern Bank at Marshall, and member of the Madison County Safety Committee, presided and welcomed those present.

Howard Ogle, Madison County safety program director, gave the invocation and the Prayer Way Quartet, composed of Lewis Boone, Johnnie Coates, Lockie Coates and Dale Coates, entertained the audience with several gospel songs.

Following the address by Ed Taylor, Howard Ogle introduced Wendell McDevitt, state OSHA representative and consultant, and reviewed the fine job McDevitt had done for the past 25 years with the State of North Carolina in accident prevention. Ogle's remarks included the follow-

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Family Matches Sheriff's Reward In Grave Robbing

The ante has been upped in the reward offered for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the grave robbing at the Rumbaugh Cemetery week before last.

In addition to the \$500 already offered by the Madison County Sheriff's Department, the family has offered another \$500.

A fund has also been established in Hot Springs which will probably raise the reward ante and help pay for any private investigation in the incident. Contributions may be made to the bank manager of the Wachovia Bank in Hot Springs.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said that rumors have been floating for years that the peo-

ple buried in two mausoleums in the small cemetery were interred with gold and jewelry.

Three skulls were missing. The ghouls opened four crypts and scattered remains about in front of the tombs. The sheriff said the robbers apparently thought there was gold teeth in the missing skulls.



AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS Steve Rice (left) and Tubby Deaver, back at their station at Marshall Town Hall after helping a Shelton Laurel woman deliver a bouncing baby boy.