

# THE NEWS RECORD

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**On the Inside . . .**  
*A Look At The Night  
World Through The Camera  
Of Johnny Grindstaff.*  
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## Trial To Decide Fate Of Students

A special session of Civil Superior Court began Monday in order to determine the fate of 51 Madison County school students who are now attending classes in Buncombe County schools.

The court convened Monday morning under presiding judge John Jolly of Rocky Mount to select 12 out of nearly 50 prospective jurors to hear testimony in each of the students' cases concerning re-assignment to Madison County schools.

The trial is expected to continue through the remainder of the week and possibly longer.

In July, the Madison County Board of Education decreed that all students residing in Madison County would attend Madison schools. Parents of students who live along the Madison-Buncombe county line, and whose children had been attending Buncombe schools in the past, objected to the school board's order and decided to take their case before the court.

The special session of court was arranged through the Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh at the request of Judge Frank Snapp after a hearing in Burnsville in which an injunction was issued preventing the school board from enforcing its attendance policy until the trial could be held.

## While Getting Off Bus

# Six Students Injured In Collision

By KEN EDWARDS  
AND  
NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Six students were injured Thursday at 3:15 p.m. when the school bus they were disembarking was hit from behind by a tractor-trailer truck traveling south on U.S. 19-23 approximately two miles east of Mars Hill.

All six children, students at Mars Hill Elementary School, were rushed by ambulance to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville for examination and treatments for injuries. Five of the students were released from the hospital by 8:30 Thursday night, and one remained hospitalized for further observation.

According to Fred Anderson, principal of Mars Hill Elementary, the injured students were Bryan Walsh, Belinda Justice, Chipper Wyatt, Monica Wyatt, Dana Hembree and Jeffrey Swann.

The accident occurred while the school bus, driven by Linda Campbell, guidance counselor at the school, was stopped at a driveway to let several students off the bus. The bus, carrying 16 students, was headed south and had stopped about one-half mile north of the intersection of U.S. 19-23 and N.C. 213. The

transfer truck, driven by Roger Lee Weikel, 34, of Charlotte, rammed into the back of the bus knocking the school vehicle forward 39 feet from the point of impact.

The truck was hauling insulation for the Fleetco Company, and the driver stated he was unable to stop his truck in time to avoid the accident. The highway was wet from the rain at the time of the collision.

Bryan Walsh, 13, an eighth grader at the Mars Hill School, was stepping off the bus at the moment of impact, and was thrown out the door of the bus. A hospital spokesman at Memorial Mission said Walsh had received a cerebral concussion, and leg injuries. He remained in the hospital for further observation Thursday night, but was in "satisfactory condition."

Principal Anderson said x-rays and thorough examinations were made on all six students at the hospital, and that most of the injuries incurred by the other five children were minor.

"Monica Wyatt received a cut on the top of her head which required some stitches, and Belinda Justice had a cut on her forehead which required six stitches," Anderson said.

According to the Highway Patrol report, the flashing stop lights and signal arm on the bus were working at the time of the accident. Black marks on the highway indicated the truck driver had applied his brakes and slid about 50 feet before hitting the bus.

Patrolman Arthur Cooper said Weikel, driver of the truck, was charged at the scene with failing to decrease speed to avoid an accident.

Damage to the school bus was estimated at \$2,000, and damage to the truck at \$2,500, according to the Highway Patrolman.

School superintendent, R.L. Edwards was at the scene of the accident shortly after it occurred. Edwards said he was "most appreciative" of the aid and services offered by everyone called to the scene. He commended the Marshall and Mars Hill Ambulance Service, the Mars Hill Fire Department, and the Mars Hill Police Department and the citizens for "the way in which they conducted themselves" at the accident.

This was the second reportable accident involving a Madison County school bus since the beginning of school on August 11.



REAR END of Mars Hill Elementary School bus was heavily damaged by impact from transfer truck. Six out of 16 children on the

bus received injuries during the accident. The bus was knocked 39 feet from the point of impact.



FRONT END of tractor-trailer rig that ran into the back of stopped school bus on Highway 19-23 just outside Mars Hill. The truck was hauling insulation for the Fleetco

Company out of Charlotte. Driver of the truck was charged with failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

# French Broad EMC Draws Large Open House Crowd

The open house activities at the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation headquarters Sunday were attended by a large number of people ranging from state and local EMC officials to children who came along with parents to see the new facilities located on Highway 213.

The keynote speaker for the occasion was 11th District Congressman Lamar Gudger who praised the efforts of all the people associated with the French Broad EMC, and commended them on their accomplishments in making the rural electric cooperative a success.

Referring to a recent loan of \$735,000 to FBEMC by the Rural Electrification Administration to aid the proposed construction of a wood-fueled electric generating station, Gudger said the French Broad EMC "is an outstanding company using resources available in Western North Carolina."

Gudger said, "All over the United States there is a realization of the important work of REAs. French Broad Electric is ahead of and doing better than others."

"Rural electricity is big business and electric



FRENCH BROAD EMC general manager, Charles Tolly, introduces speakers at open house ceremonies.

membership corporations like French Broad are a vital part of the power picture throughout the nation and, particularly, in Western North Carolina," he said.

Other officials on hand to

greet visitors and take a tour of the EMC headquarters were French Broad Electric general manager, Charles Tolly and Jim Hubbard, president of the North Carolina Association of Electric

Cooperatives, of Raleigh.

FBEMC Board of Directors members attending the open house were Novile Hawkins, vice president; Albert Freeman, treasurer; James Ray, assistant secretary; Wayne Hall, Mitchell County; W.G. Plemmons, Buncombe County; and Joe Justice of Spring Creek.

In his address to the open house participants, Congressman Gudger said the "actions of electric membership corporations like French Broad have demonstrated from the outset that you practice what you preach. You may call it rural electric viewpoints, but to me, it has the ring of a creed," he said.

Gudger emphasized the five viewpoints stating:

"The individual citizen, whether in rural or urban America, can and will achieve a sense of personal pride and accomplishment and family security if given a real opportunity to participate in social, economic and political activities as a free and equal citizen."

"That this nation's human and physical resources, under God, must be developed and utilized to the maximum ex-

tent possible and that this productive resource development should result in maximum public benefit without regard to religion, race, creed, social or economic circumstance.

"That the development of the potential of rural America and the utilization of its assets will make a major contribution to the welfare of the nation and the world.

"That the principles of self-help cooperative enterprise embody the freedoms and unalienable rights granted by the constitution of the United States, and are consistent with the highest ideals of the free enterprise system.

"And, that rural electric cooperatives have major responsibilities for helping to raise the standard of living and for improving the productivity and the opportunity for economic prosperity in an everchanging rural America."

Gudger said, "This creed is remarkably demonstrated at French Broad Electric."

Tours of the \$1.4 million headquarters building enabled visitors to get an inside look at the facility which houses nearly 30 offices, maintenance and warehouse areas.

## Gudger Calls For Expelling Congressman Michael Myers

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Congressman Lamar Gudger has countered GOP opponent Bill Hendon's charges that Gudger favors allowing convicted felons to sit in the United States Congress.

In a statement to The News Record after addressing visitors to the French Broad Electric Membership Corp. open house Sunday, Gudger said he has requested the Congressional Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to "investigate Rep. Michael O. Myers' activities and report a resolution of expulsion to the full House of Representatives."

Gudger also explained the situation involving Rep. Charles Diggs of Michigan does not allow expulsion from Congress because of a Supreme Court decision in the Adam Clayton Powell case which "suggested that Congress should not refuse to seat, or take action to expel, a member for conduct occurring in a prior Congress when the voters reelect that member with knowledge of the conduct."

Speaking at a GOP rally Saturday night near Waynesville, Republican candidate for the House of Representatives, Bill Hendon said, "I am again calling on Congressman Gudger to

change his previous position on allowing convicted felons to sit in the United States Congress, and vote Monday to expel Abscam Congressman Michael Myers from Congress."

Hendon said the House Ethics Committee has voted 10 to 2 to recommend expulsion for Myers who has been convicted on charges of bribery, conspiracy and traveling in interstate commerce to commit bribery.

Hendon also said Gudger "refused twice to vote to expel convicted felon Charles Diggs" from the House. He added that Diggs is now in a federal prison, but drew his \$60,000 a year salary while appealing the conviction.

"Myers is also appealing his case, but the people of Western North Carolina don't want convicted crooks sitting in Washington passing laws that affect all of us," Hendon said.

In his statement on Sunday, Rep. Gudger said he wrote a letter to Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., on Sept. 2, calling on Preyer as a member of the committee on official conduct to investigate Myers' activities and saying that he would support the committee on a resolution of expulsion for Myers.

Gudger's letter to Preyer also stated that he "supported

the Committee's report calling for censure of Representative Diggs earlier this year."

"Myers' situation is unlike the case of Rep. Diggs who was convicted of fraud and issuing false statements in the Ninety-Fifth Congress and prior to his reelection to this Congress," Gudger said. "Myers has just been convicted of felonies involving officials misconduct in this Ninety-Sixth Congress," he said.

Gudger pointed out that Congress was "hamstrung" in the Diggs case because of the precedent set in the Adam Clayton Powell case regarding expulsion. He said censuring Diggs was the appropriate action in that case.

In his letter to Rep. Preyer, Gudger said Rep. Myers' conviction during this present Congress "mandates that we in this Congress promptly consider the expulsion of Mr. Myers since the Ninety-Seventh Congress may not be empowered to consider a resolution of expulsion should Mr. Myers be reelected."

Democrat Gudger has served two terms in North Carolina's 11th District seat in Congress, and he is being challenged by Republican Benner of Asheville in the November election.

## 'Quota System' Dropped By Patrol

FROM AP AND STAFF REPORTS

Public outcry and legislator, grumblings has forced scrapping a system which considers the number of tickets a state Highway Patrol trooper writes in determining merit pay raises for the officer.

Overwhelming public opinion, officials announced Tuesday they had discontinued the new trooper evaluation system.

Liston B. Ramsey, House

representative from Madison County, along with State Sen. Harold Hardison of Lenoir County, also voiced strong opposition to what they termed a "quota system" for ticket writing within the Highway Patrol.

Burley Mitchell, Jr., secretary of game control and public safety, said his department received countless objections from both private and court officials since the evaluation program was made

public last week.

Many, he said, believed the patrol had established a quota system for issuing tickets. And he said such a misunderstanding could undermine confidence in the patrol.

"In order to insure that the policies of the state Highway Patrol do not give even the appearance of a quota system, I have instructed the state Highway Patrol to cease using the Work Planning and Per-

formance Review system as it is now set up in that division," he said.

The abrupt turnabout came less than a week after Mitchell and Gov. Jim Hunt vigorously defended the evaluation system.

Only last Friday, Mitchell sent letters to newspaper editors, legislators and candidates for the Legislature around the state in which he called news reports of the system inaccurate and said

the number of traffic tickets had actually declined since the system was begun in July.

The system had been criticized by Hunt's Republican gubernatorial opponent, state Sen. I. Beverly Lake Jr., and also by several Democratic legislators.

Hunt press spokesman Brent Hackney said the governor did not ask the system be scrapped but okayed it after Mitchell made the suggestions.