## Stone Steps Are Wilde's Gift To School

Hy NICHOLAS HANCOCK

was a warm, humid day. temperature was in the 70s and the moisture in the air was about the consistency of Campbell's

eat dripped off Abner Wade's nose and seeped ough the shoulders and front of his shirt as he hefted rocks and placed them in t the right spot to form the structure he kept pictured in

Wilde is spelled with an e. I tained it with an e on the end," he was saying.

Abner Wilde, age 69, was at Mådison High School performing a labor of love, of sorts, for the school and the kids and the community.

Willa Wyatt, director of

guidance at Madison High,

has announced that students

taking the Preliminary

Scholastic Aptitude Test/Na-

tional Merit Scholarship

(P\$AT/NMSQT) on Oct. 21.

will benefit from additional

Test

Qualifying

"If a man can't help his school out a little, there ain't much to him," Wilde said.

Wilde is a stone mason. He's been building things with stones for the past 40 years. He learned the trade by helping build the stone walls located just north of Marshall "along the old road leading out of town."

"I got paid \$11.80 a week working on those walls. Lord, that was forty, maybe fortyfive, years ago. I remember I had a little log house back then. Winter was coming on and I hadn't got the cracks chinked between the logs. We had a big snow, and the wind blew the snow right through. Snow was coming in all over the house," he laughed.

But now it was an almost hot September day, and Wilde

**Preliminary Test Offered At Madison** 

services in 1980. These ser-

vices are designed to provide

students with more informa-

tion about the content and uses

Students who plan to take

the 1980 PSAT/NMSQT will

receive a complete sample

build two sets of stone stairs leading from the upper level walkway behind the high school to the lower level on either side of the press box.

A crew of students helped under Wilde's direction and guidance; young men learning in masonry class what Wilde learned in 32 years of laying rock on the Blue Ridge Parkway from the "foothills of Tennessee to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia."

The connection between these students and Wilde is the school. School and the community mean a lot to him. Wilde was a noted athlete in his own high school days at Marshall.

"I never miss a football game here," he said.

test for practice, along with an

answer key and scoring in-

structions. When scores are

reported in December, each

student will receive a Report

of Student Answers, including

the correct answers as well as

the answers the student gave.

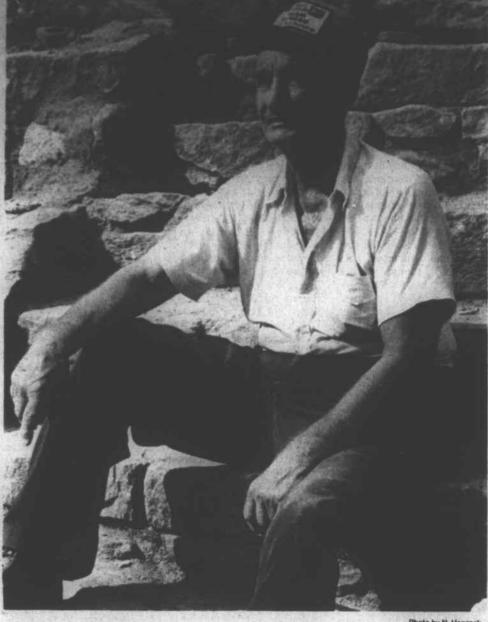
be absent from the last few games when he and his wife pack up to head for their place in Florida in a couple of weeks. The cold weather hinders him a bit too much. But, he still keeps up with the team even though he is not present to cheer them on.

"I have the newspaper sent to Fiorida," he said.

once again a physical part of well. But, a part of Abner Wilde will never leave the stadium at the school. That part lies in the rock and cement forming the stairs at O.E. Roberts Stadium. It's called caring and skill. Solid



ABNER WILDE donated his time and energy toward building the stone stairs on both sides of the press box at the Madison High School football stadium. He's been a stone mason for 40 years. Thirty-two of those years were spent working on rock walls along the Blue Ridge Parkway.



TAKING A BREAK, Abner Wilde sits on one set of stone stairs he is building behind the press box at Madison High School. The 69 year old stone mason was once an

athlete at Marshall High School. He still advidly supports the football team, and says he never misses a game.

## **Historical Society Meeting**

At a meeting of the Board of Directors (of the county Historical Society) last Weitnesday, plans were made for stepping up the Cemetery Registration project. Assistance from churches, community clubs and those families with family cemeteries is needed. Information needed is names, birth and death dates of all deceased in the cemetery.

The Society plans to visit some of the more historical cemeteries during the coming months. Mrs. Lucile Roberts, county librarian, has prepared a loose-leaf notebook where all information will be gathered; mail or bring information to the Marshall Library, preferably in typewritten form.

The annual meeting of the

county Historical Society is planned for November 1. This will be a noon meeting with lunch made up of traditional country food.

Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German flying ace known as the "Red Baron, was shot down and killed over the Western Front in 1918.



SIGMA ALPHA CHI members at Mars Hill College are: (left to right) Karen Smith, president; Pam Bailey, vice president: Lori

Patterson, secretary; Donna Stanley, pledge mistress; Myrtle Foust, treasurer; and Patti Anderson, chaplain.



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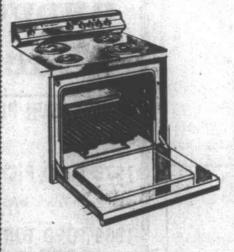




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