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Lamar Gudger



Q: Why should the voters in the 11th Congressional District elect you to a third term as Congressman?

A: One of the duties of a Congressman is lawmaking, and I have fulfilled that duty. My attendance rate of 96 percent is one of the highest in Congress. Secondly, I serve on three important committees: Judicial, Interior and the Select Committee on Aging. Another duty of a congressman is communicating with the people he serves. I send a report to the press each week on important issues, and I have an average of 30 town meetings every two months. Thirdly is constituent services. We have brought together a very effective staff to serve the people of the 11th Congressional District.

Q: What is your position on building a new access road into the Cataloochee area of Haywood County?

A: I see no justification for constructing that road. I think there could, and likely would be a degradation to the area. I oppose construction at this point.

Q: What is your stand on designating additional tracts of land as Wilderness areas in Western North Carolina?

A: I am supportive of multiple use management of our forests. I think the National Forest Service should have jurisdiction over forest lands. I do not support a Rare II Wilderness addition. I can't see sending this matter to Congress for a decision.

Q: Do you favor allowing oil exploration in the Pisgah National Forest?

A: Yes. Laws already exist to allow this. There appears to be substantial evidence of oil deposits in the Appalachian chain. I think the National Forest Service made the right decisions to restrict access and extraction in the national forests. It is my personal concern that we make sure that drilling rights will not damage the environment.

Q: Regarding the transporting of nuclear waste material along Interstate 40 through Haywood and Buncombe counties, can you assure us that we are safe?

A: The nuclear waste materials are moved in containers that are supposed to be safe. I don't know of any incidents where any of this has gotten out of hand.

Q: There has been some talk about the possible dropping of Federal price supports for tobacco. What is your position on this?

A: I am opposed to terminating the tobacco stabilization program.

Q: There has been some speculation that you might be seeking an appointment to a Federal judgeship. What are your long-range plans or ambitions?

A: To be a good congressman as long as the people will have me. I feel I can be a better lawmaker than a judge.

Q: What do you see as some of the problems facing Western North Carolina in the 1980s?

A: I see an increased use of our forest and parks for recreation. There will be a need for more campgrounds, trails, and facilities. And, we are going to see a good deal of in-

EDITOR'S NOTE — On Thursday, Oct. 16, the News Record met separately with Lamar Gudger and William (Bill) Hendon, both candidates for the 11th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The following is the result of one-hour interviews with both candidates featuring questions and answers we feel will be of interest to voters in Madison County and the 11th Congressional District. Mr. Gudger, the incumbent Democrat, is seeking his third term as a Congressional representative. He resides in Asheville. Mr. Hendon, the Republican challenger, is a businessman and a native of Haywood County.

School Bus, Car Collide

By KEN EDWARDS

There were no injuries in a Madison High School bus accident Thursday when a bus and a car collided on Gabriels Creek Road in a "dangerous" curve.

Thirteen students ranging in age from 3 to 18 were aboard the bus at the 3:45 p.m. accident.

The school bus, driven by Winfred Ramsey, 26, of Mars Hill, was about to go into a curve when it was hit head on by a Toyota Corona Mark II, driven by Don Bearden also of Mars Hill.

The bus received minor damage, while the car received substantial damage.

According to State Highway Patrolman Dudley, the road on which the accident occurred is 18 feet wide. However, it narrows to 13 feet in the worst part of the curve. He said, "It was a bad curve on a bad road. You don't have to write anything down to tell that it is dangerous."

Bus driver Ramsey was charged with driving left of center when the accident happened. At the time, no other charges were pending.

Bystanders at the scene were "relieved that no one was hurt." Many portions of Gabriels Creek Road are in poor condition and are in need of immediate repair, according to those on the scene.

The wreck marks the third major accident involving a Madison County school bus with students on board since the beginning of the school year.

Bill Hendon



Q: Why should the voters in the 11th Congressional District elect you over Lamar Gudger?

A: Because I do what I say I'll do. Lamar is running on his record. This country has the highest inflation in its history; we're experiencing a recession. Look at where the Lamar Gudger experience has gotten us.

Q: What can you do as Congressman for the people of the 11th District if you are elected?

A: I believe there's a time to play ball, and a time to stand up and holler, and now it's time to holler. We need to cut taxes. We've got to cut taxes. We need to get the government out of the working man's pocket. We're in the people business. Don't cut out food stamps, cut the waste out of the food stamp program.

Q: What is your view on revenue sharing?

A: I support the concept of revenue sharing because it allows local control over the money. We've got to accept the role of government in our lives. I would vote to continue revenue sharing because local government depends on it.

Q: What do you see as the three most important functions of a Congressman?

A: Taking care of the people in the constituency, seeing that this country is made strong again, and dealing with national issues.

Q: With the recent ABscam convictions in the news, do you think people have lost faith in Congress?

A: Yes. I like to listen to my gut reaction and take action on that. I am a man who knows right from wrong.

Q: What is your stand on designating more Wilderness area in Western North Carolina?

A: I think we have done enough. Wilderness costs jobs. Why open one area and close another in the same county (referring to the Shining Rock Wilderness area and Cataloochee in Haywood County). It doesn't make sense. Let's don't lock the land up in Wilderness. I don't see the Wilderness going down the drain, personally.

Q: But how do you propose to protect the natural areas of this country?

A: I think we've done enough. I'm for multiple use of forests. I think the little guy should be able to make a living off the land.

Q: What are your feelings on building a new access road into the Cataloochee area of Haywood County?

A: The Cataloochee to me is special, the whole thing. I see the road as a waste of money. I think it will ruin the Cataloochee Valley. I see the Cataloochee as a national treasure. That valley represents to me what this country is all about. I will do everything within my power as Congressman to see that road is not built.

Q: How effective do you think you can be as a Republican in a predominately Democratic district?

A: I think I can be very effective. As I said before, I look at being a Congressman as being a people business. Lamar Gudger has

been playing ball in Congress for the last four years, and look where it's got us.

Q: How well do you think you will do with the vote in Madison County?

A: It's going to be tough, but I think we will do well.

Q: If you are elected to Congress, what are your long-range plans?

A: I'd like to be Congressman until I drop dead! I want to be a friend of the people. I like to get things done.

Q: What do you see down the road for Western North Carolina?

A: A growth in tourism and growth in the use of our forest products. We need more industrial jobs in the worst way.

Q: There has been some talk about the possible dropping of Federal price supports for tobacco. What is your position on this?

A: I'd like to leave it just where it is.

Q: What changes would you like to make in the current national tax structure?

A: I would recommend a reduction of ten percent each year for the next three years in personal income tax. Let the American worker make all he can and take home all he can. Why does he have to eat hamburger all the time?

Q: The American dream of owning your own home is almost gone. What would you as Congressman do to help make that dream a reality again?

A: Cut taxes! The government needs to give us our money back.

Q: Regarding Social Security benefits, do you favor limitations on outside earnings for Social Security recipients?

A: As a Congressman, I would vote to remove the limitations on outside earnings.

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Elam To Serve On Development Board

Phillip R. Elam of Mars Hill was elected to serve on the board of directors of the Tennessee River Valley Association during its tenth annual meeting on Oct. 6-7 in Huntsville, Ala. Elam is manager of the Economic Department in the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Tennessee River Valley Association (TRVA) is a broad-based regional, economic development corporation serving eight southeastern states. Since its birth in 1967, TRVA has had one goal in mind: "To foster and promote economic growth, environmental quality and support of the free enterprise system," according to the association's executive vice president and general manager, J. Frank Keown.

"The idea was if you could get a regional group of citizens — leaders in business, industry, government, financial institutions, education, transportation, power distributors, etc. — pulling together, you could have more success in developing the area," said Keown.

TRVA also supports construction of cogeneration facilities that burn solid waste to fire steam-generated electric plants. An estimated 90 percent of solid waste can be consumed and converted into



Phillip R. Elam electricity by steam while helping solve the problem of

garbage disposal.

Other areas of involvement and intra-regional cooperation are: support of a regional potable water supply system; support for securing funding for the completion of the Tenn-Tom Waterway and Natchez Trace Parkway; promoting tourism throughout the region; conducting agribusiness meeting in conjunction with financial and educational institutions to promote increased agriculture production; support of export trade

to increase job opportunities and expanded product markets for the industries of the region.

The TRVA works for those things that are economically beneficial to the region and against those actions, proposals or legislation that might hurt the economy and progress of the Central South.

The TRVA is a non-partisan organization financed by its membership and guided by a board of directors elected geographically to represent

the entire region. Included on an advisory board of directors are representatives from many area and state organizations and the governors of eight states serve as honorary directors.

"TRVA is one of the most effective and influential organizations I have had the opportunity to work with. If it means jobs and money in the pockets of the people, business and industry of this region, TRVA is interested and involved," Elam said.

Commissioners Vote To Purchase Land At Special Meeting

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met Friday at 7:30 p.m. in a called meeting to discuss industrial development and expansion in the county, according to county attorney Larry B. Leake.

Leake said most of the meeting was conducted in executive session, and when the commissioners returned to the open meeting they voted to "acquire certain land owned by John Hensley located adjacent to the Madison County Industrial Park."

Leake said the vote for acquisition involved "approximately seven acres" of land now owned

by Hensley. The parcel of land borders U.S. 25-70 across from the Sprinkle-Shelton Company in south Marshall.

Asked if the vote to acquire the additional land was connected with American Greeting Cards Company's pending decision on purchasing approximately 50 acres of land in the park, Leake replied the action was taken by the county as a "vigorous effort to recruit new industry to the county."

Madison County Industrial Park consists of 123 acres at present. Two sites, totaling 10 acres, have been developed by grading and the laying of water lines to the locations, according to Leake.



Photo by Scott Lunsford

UMBRELLAS SPROUTED like mushrooms during the Mars Hill College homecoming game against Carson-Newman Saturday. The Lions squeaked by Eagles to remain undefeated for the season. See details on Sports pages.