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BILL BIGGERS, Republican Party chairman, and Larry Hodges, president of the Young Republicans Club, are pleased at

the results of this first event to kick off the Young Republican membership drive.

Photo by Scott Fitzgerald

## At Inaugural Ball

# Republicans Say 'Now's The Time'

By SCOTT FITZGERALD

On the eve of the Presidential Inauguration, several hundred Western North Carolina Republicans gathered in Asheville at the Great Smokies Hilton for the first Inaugural Ball. The gala event was staged as the initial step to kickoff a membership drive for the Young Republicans Club of Western North Carolina.

The ball was the first of its type in the area and it also set a first by having the first cable network hook-up that beamed the inaugural ball in Washington, D.C. back to a wide-screen television in the Hilton facilities. The proceeds of the ball went to the reconstruction of Ben Lippen School, which suffered extensive fire damage earlier in the year. The ball and celebration was one of two given in the state. The other was staged in Raleigh.

The ball was to be used as an instrument to unify the party, according to Larry Hodges,

president of the Young Republicans Club.

"This event will serve as a nucleus for building the membership of the club and it looks very successful for bringing party members together," he said. Hodges hoped that the club could be built back up to 75 to 150 members. The club disbanded in 1975 after declining memberships. Hodges said the Asheville area had shown a great need to reorganize the club.

Madison County Republicans on hand expressed their support for the ball and the goals behind it. District Attorney, Clyde M. Roberts said it was a "fine occasion for the Republican Party. It should show a lot of support for the Young Republicans Club."

Roberts also expressed the difficult task ahead of recruiting members to the Republican Party. "Now's the time to get back to the stronger days of American government. A change re-

quires a great deal of work to get youth in the party. The party, especially in Madison, needs the youth to become involved," he said.

W.C. Silvers, a Mars Hill businessman, commenting on the event said, "This is a great means to cross county borders and will definitely help the political thinking in this area."

An added highlight of the evening was the cable television hook-up which allowed the members to observe the festivities in Washington. Many members were very pleased with the results. The cable hook-up was designed to give the gathering a nationwide flair and unity. Bill Biggers, Republican party chairman, said, "We hope this will be very successful." The cable allowed viewers to see the man they put in office attend the various functions around Washington. "We hope the wide-screen will bring viewers closer to the party and the president," said Biggers.

## Public Meetings

The Madison County Board of Education will meet Monday, Feb. 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Courthouse in Marshall.

The Marshall Town Council will meet Monday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Marshall Town Hall on Main Street.

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet Monday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Friday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Courthouse in Marshall.

## Optimist Club Gets Award

The two highest awards made at the club level by Optimist International, the Distinguished President Award and the Honor and Distinguished Club Award, have been bestowed upon the Madison Central Optimist Club of Marshall, and its president, Bryce Hall.

The Distinguished President Award, a citation and suitably engraved wrist watch, is given in recognition of exceptional leadership and accomplishment. This title is awarded only the president of the club that has also qualified as an honor club.

Notification of these honors for outstanding work as a community service organization came from Lionel Grenier, President of Optimist International. The awards to the Distinguished President, as well as the Honor and Distinguished Club medallion that is attached to the club banner, will be presented at a District Board Meeting Charlotte on Feb. 21, by Grenier.

Bill Stump, current Secretary-Treasurer, in making the announcement said, "We are very proud to learn of our winning these awards, and particularly proud of our Distinguished President."



Bryce Hall

Bryce Hall, who helped the club achieve this activities record.

The Optimist Club of Madison Central, chartered in March, 1980, boasts 104 members. Optimist International, founded in 1919, with headquarters in St. Louis, Miss., has more than 133,000 individual members devoted to promoting respect for law, an active interest in good government and civic affairs, stimulating international accord and friendship and aiding and encouraging the development of young people.

# Industrial Bonds Board Sworn In

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK  
Editor

"I, Auburn Wyatt, do swear that I will well and truly execute the duties of the office of Commissioner of the Madison County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority according to the best of my skill and ability, according to law; so help me, God."

With that oath, Wyatt and six other county residents were sworn in Jan. 22 by Clerk of Court James Cody to serve on the county's new industrial bonds board. Reciting the oath along with Wyatt, who will serve as chairman of the board, were Jerry Plemmons of Marshall; Joe Justice of Spring Creek; Ernest Snelson of Rector's Corner; Leonard Baker of Route 4, Marshall; Frank T. Moore of Marshall, and Myrtle Ann Ray of Sodom-Laurel.

The board was appointed by the county commissioners at their January meeting to facilitate industrial development in Madison, and county attorney Larry Leake outlined the duties of the new board to its members at Thursday night's swearing in. Leake said the board would serve as a device to: (1) Hold land in the county for industrial development, (2) Receive gifts of either money or land toward the purpose of industrial development, and (3) Serve as a bond granting agency to industries.

Leake explained that industries could come to the board and "secure cheaper financing than they might be able to obtain through normal,



Photos by N. Hancock

James Cody (center) Administers Oath To Industrial Bond Board

public channels." He said individuals or banks seeking the industrial bonds would not have to pay taxes on the income earned from the bonds.

The new board will receive and review any applications submitted to it by industries interested in locating in Madison County, according to Leake. The board will determine the suitability

of an industry to the county, "to determine if an industry will be an asset to the county, whether it is to the county's interest to get involved with that industry," Leake said.

Once the board has reviewed the proposals of any applying industry, it will send the proposal to

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# Budget On Target, But Tax Collections Slow

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK  
Editor

At the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year (Dec. 31, 1980), Madison County had collected only 70 percent of the ad valorem tax owed by county taxpayers, according to David Caldwell, county finance officer. In his report to the county commissioners at their January meeting, Caldwell stated \$759,737.39 in ad valorem tax had been paid while the budget called for \$1,081,047.00.

The 30 percent deficit was "not average in Madison County, looking back over the last few years." He attributed the poor collection rate this year to "a bad crop season for farmers, and inflation." He also pointed out that Southern Railway has not paid \$103,000 in taxes to the county. Southern is asking for another evaluation of their properties in the county, and have gone through various legal appeals to obtain the evaluation, according to Caldwell.

However, the county has succeeded in obtaining 85.7 percent of its general fund revenues for the first half of the fiscal year. The general

fund budget estimate for the year ending June 30 is \$2,097,645; thus far the county has received \$1,399,517.91 in revenues.

The bulk of the general fund revenues come from ad valorem and other local taxes and fees, while federal aid to the county has amounted to \$182,583.75 or 13 percent, for the first half of the fiscal year. Other substantial revenue sources to the general fund are state 4-C Day Care monies which have totaled \$11,403.45 thus far, and county revenue sharing which has contributed \$97,960.88 of Dec. 31.

Expenditures from the

general fund totaled \$1,215,540.15 as of Dec. 31 with some of the largest sums going to the governing body — \$32,778.54, the sheriff's department and jail — \$38,563.05, the ambulance service — \$70,223.50, child day care — \$139,634.59, and distribution — \$438,551.21. The "distribution" category includes county employees' retirement fund, social security fund and other employee benefits, according to county commission chairman James Ledford.

The general fund balance as of Dec. 31 was \$293,797.82 with \$232,300 being maintained in certificates of deposit.

The Social Services Fund carries one of the largest budgets in county operations with an estimated \$2,537,183 budgeted for the fiscal year. Revenues for this fund come primarily from the state to the tune of \$2,190,083, with the county adding an estimated \$300,000 by year's end. Six-month expenditures have totaled \$1,134,321.33 with \$194,289.63 spent on administration, \$20,586.54 to Day Care, \$26,448.89 to a Non-Departmental category, and \$883,377.47 to the Special Appropriations category. The fund balance for Dec. 31 shows \$4,497.39.

The County Health Department budget for 1980-81 is listed at \$476,505. Of that figure, the county contributes \$140,000 from the general fund while revenue sharing is estimated to add \$100,000. Thus far, the county has chipped in \$50,000 and revenue sharing has contributed \$35,000. Expenditures from the Health Department fund have totaled \$226,224.81 at mid-year for 46.2 percent of the annual budget. Expenditures are listed under the categories: sanitation, clinic, animal shelter and non-departmental. As of Dec. 31, the Health Department fund had \$3,321.26 in cash on hand.

## On the inside . . .

Jon Thorsen Works Hard At Wrestling. His Season Record Stands At 9-3. See Page 7.

## Hendon Receives Committee Job

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon of Asheville has been appointed to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs which has been both a vital and traditional assignment for the 11th District congressman representing the 17 counties in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

The 17-county area includes 1,142,948 acres of federally-owned lands, including the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, portions of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Carl Sandburg Home. The Qualla Boundary of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which includes 58,360 acres of tribal lands and 112 acres of federally-owned land, is also located within the district.



Bill Hendon

"I'm pleased to have this committee assignment, especially one so important to our mountain district," Hendon said.