

# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Parking Lot Shooting

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK  
Editor

A young Walnut man was seriously injured by a self-inflicted gunshot wound early Friday evening in the parking lot of the Madison Plaza Shopping Center, according to Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder.

Rocky Flemming, 19, was listed in satisfactory condition at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville after removal of the bullet Sunday, Ponder said.

Responding to a call at 8:01 p.m. Friday, Sheriff Ponder said he found Flemming slumped over in the seat of his Volkswagen automobile in the shopping center parking lot in front of Ingle's super-

market. A .22 calibre Ruger pistol was laying beside Flemming, Ponder said. Flemming had sustained a bullet wound in the right side of his chest, according to the sheriff's department report.

Flemming's wife, Rebecca, told Ponder that Flemming had shot himself, and upon questioning, Flemming told the sheriff that he had shot himself. An ambulance rushed Flemming to Memorial Mission Hospital where he was treated and prepared for removal of the bullet on Sunday.

Ponder said no charges have been filed in the incident which occurred just two days after the fatal stabbing of another youth in a nearby parking lot on the Marshall bypass.

## Marshall Town Council

### HUD Project Report Given, Police Request New Car

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK  
EDITOR

A report on Marshall's housing rehabilitation project and several requests from departments and individuals highlighted the February meeting of the Town of Marshall Board of Aldermen.

Donald Ramsey, project administrator for the Housing

and Urban Development (HUD) community development project, presented a financial status report to the aldermen showing project expenditures as of Jan. 31.

So far, the town has spent \$103,714.05 of a community development block grant of \$804,000. Broken down into categories, the report stated

\$15,476.76 in administrative expenses of which \$10,015.71 was paid to the three administrators in the project, according to Ramsey. Project administrators began full-time work on Oct. 1.

Ramsey's report said \$88,237.29 has been spent to date on housing rehabilitation with \$41,439.53 being paid in salaries. A total of \$46,797.76 has gone into fringe benefits, materials, travel, contracts and technical and legal fees.

The town's HUD project employs 20 full-time rehabilitation workers and two part-time employees.

Ramsey said eight houses are 90 percent completed in the project, and that work crews have already started on their eleventh house. He added that the project is "well ahead of schedule" as far as stretching the allocated money spent on the houses in the target area.

In another matter, the aldermen heard a request from Marshall Police Chief Bill Lisenbee for a new police car. Lisenbee said the 1972 Ford Torino was worn out — "the motor and transmission are gone." The aldermen gave Lisenbee the go-ahead to look for a car to replace the Torino, but S.L. Nix warned the police chief that the police cars "have got to be kept up." Nix said when something goes wrong with one of the cars it needs to be reported by the officer using the car. "Don't pass it off on the officer coming on duty," he said.

After several months of discussing the town cemetery, the aldermen announced they would be hiring Bud Roberts to begin work on clearing the cemetery of weeds and bushes which have grown up over the years. Alderman Jackie Davis said he would supervise the work of Roberts once work is underway.

The board of aldermen heard a request from two of

Marshall's volunteer firemen for two new Koehler lights for the department. The firemen said the department needed the lights badly. The rechargeable, hand-held lights cost approximately \$230 per pair and come equipped with batteries which provide 3,000 hours of use. The board approved the purchase of two additional lights after alderman S.L. Nix reminded the board that "we've got to have lights, these boys are furnishing their own lights."

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Moore appeared before the aldermen to request that something be done to prevent cars from almost sliding into their house on Candler Drive during snow and ice. The Moores explained that Candler Drive was a very steep hill, and there had been occasions when cars have nearly slipped off the road into their house.

"It's no fun sitting at home and knowing a car can come right into your living room," the Moores said.

"We pay taxes to the city, and I've been footing the bill for salting the road myself," Mr. Moore said. "If the town will haul some salt and sand up to the road, we'll furnish the manpower to put it out."

The aldermen agreed to "take a load of sand mixed with sodium chloride to pile on the edge of the road."

In one of the last items of business, Eloise Riddle, secretary to the board, informed the aldermen that the State Board of Elections had sent the town notice of new elections rules for municipal elections. The notice listed the registration deadline as Oct. 5, 1981, and candidate filing dates as from 12 noon Sept. 11 to 12 noon Oct. 2 for the non-partisan plurality election to be held on Nov. 3. The office of Mayor and all four aldermen seats will be up for grabs in the election.

### Judge Lyerly Selected To International Bar

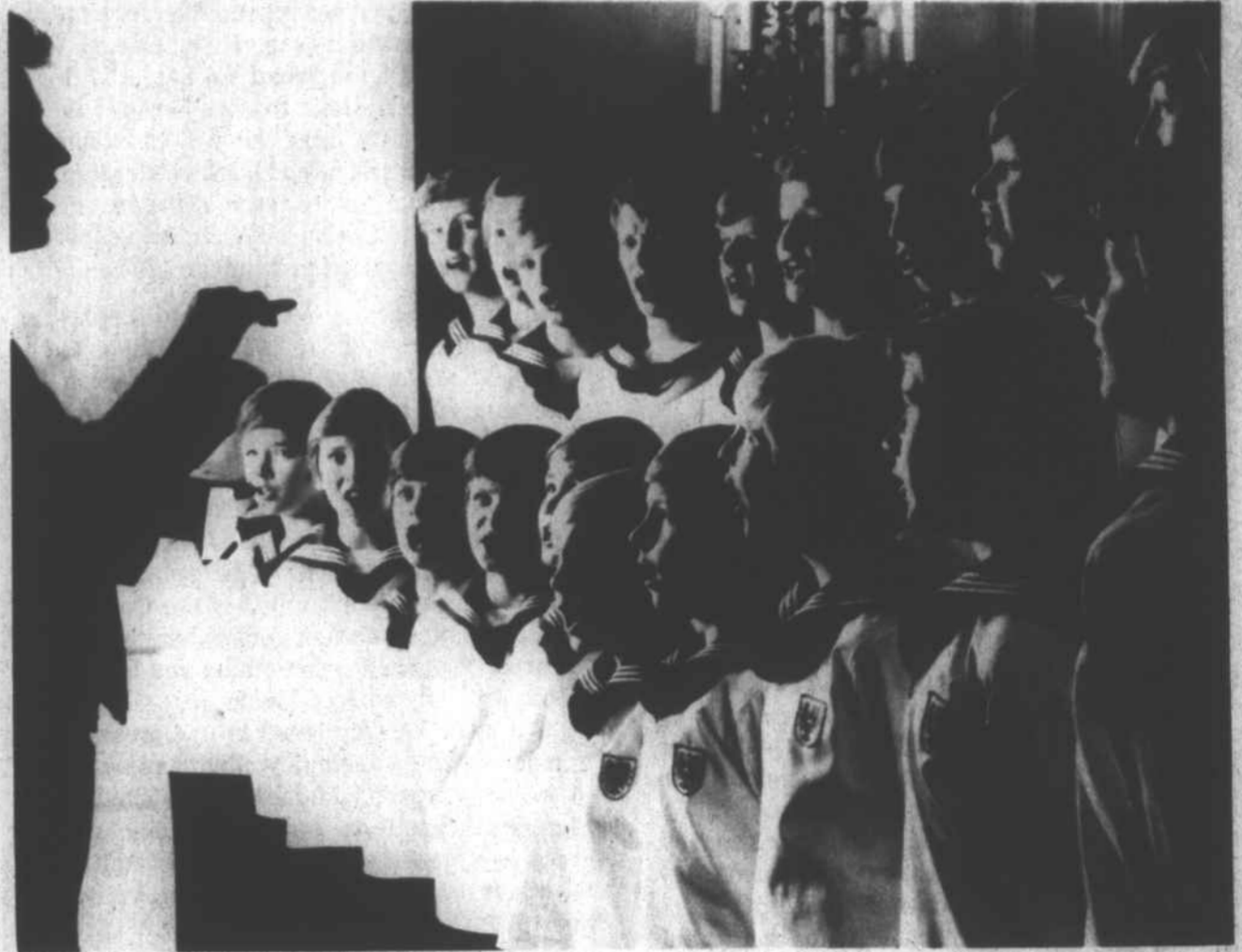
Judge Alexander Lyerly of Banner Elk received a distinctive honor recently when he was selected as a member of the Family Law Committee of the International Bar Association.

Judge Lyerly was one of 12 selected from the United States, with other members chosen from Canada, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Germany, France, England, Spain, Sweden and Italy. The

selection was made by the chairman, Claes Renstrom of Stockholm, Sweden.

Lyerly was elected in November as District Court Judge for the 28th Judicial District which includes Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery and Watauga counties.

He and Judge Robert H. Lacey of Newland preside over all District Court sessions in Madison County.



The Vienna Choir Boys On 1981 American Tour

## Choir Boys Capture Audience

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK  
Editor

A capacity crowd filled Moore Auditorium at Mars Hill College last Wednesday night to listen to 23 young boys, ages 8 to 14, sing in a language that few in the audience understood and songs that most there had never heard.

If the idea of doing that doesn't make much sense, it really doesn't matter because true art, special art doesn't have to make sense. It's just there to be enjoyed for the beauty it gives. And, the Vienna Choir Boys are special, and

they are artists, and they were enthusiastically enjoyed by everyone fortunate enough to get a seat at the concert. And, Mars Hill College was fortunate to be able to bring the world famous performers to Western North Carolina through its Visiting Artists and Lecturers program.

The tradition of the "Wiener Saengerknaben" goes back to 1498 when the original group was established by imperial decree by Emperor Maximilian I of the Hapsburg empire. Four centuries passed before the Choir Boys made their first tour outside

Austria, and they first came to America in 1932, only six years after the group began its European tours. Since that time they have made annual tours to the U.S. and to almost every major country in the world.

What sets these young performers apart is a combination youthful naivete and exuberance blended with highly skilled artistry. Their unchanged voices are expertly trained in three and four part harmonies which captivate audiences as the boys sing practically every form of vocal music from Latin hymns to American folksongs.

It has been said that the Vienna Choir Boys are probably one of the most thoroughly drilled and rehearsed singing groups in the world, and it is precisely that — the

discipline — that awes the American spectator familiar with today's U.S. youth.

The Choir Boys' performance Wednesday night could be considered flawless as they presented a two hour performance with two short intermissions. Musical director Franz Farnberger led the boys through 16th and 17th century works by Purcell, Gallus and Pieter during the first part of the program ending it with three pieces from the almost dissonant haunting, and difficult "Pater Noster" by Krenek. Part Two of the concert was a presentation of the operetta "Hansel and Gretel" performed in costume with songs sung in the original German and dialogue spoken in delightfully

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## Hunter Shot

A man was hospitalized after a hunting companion shot him in the back with a shotgun Saturday afternoon, the Madison County Sheriff's Department reported.

Brannon Norton, about 35, of Route 5 was carried to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, where his condition was listed as satisfactory Saturday night, according to a hospital spokesman.

The sheriff's department said the shooting appeared to be an accident and no charges were filed.

The incident occurred about 3 p.m. while Norton was grouse hunting with a neighbor, 16-year-old Joey Blackwell of Marshall, in the Caney Fork area outside of Marshall.

The youth tried to shoot a bird and accidentally shot Norton, who was about 50 yards away, with a 16-gauge shotgun, the sheriff's department reported.

### On the Inside . . .

Walnut's Mike Cody Composes  
His Own Songs And Performs  
In High Places.  
See Story On Page 3.

### Hendon Appointed To Committee On Aging

WASHINGTON—U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon has been appointed to the House Select Committee on Aging.

"I am especially pleased with this committee assignment," Hendon said. "The Asheville and Western North Carolina areas are growing retirement centers for the elderly, and this assignment will give me the opportunity to look after the special needs of those Senior Americans who live there, many of them on fixed incomes and facing extremely difficult times in this highly inflationary period."

The committee has jurisdiction over a number of social service programs for the elderly as established under the Older Americans Act of 1965. Its subcommittees are Retirement, Income and Employment, Health and Longterm Care, Housing and Consumer Interest and Human Services.

Hendon also serves on the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs.

Hendon said it was also fortunate that his own executive assistant, Donna Norton, formerly of Asheville, is widely known for her experience in



Rep. Bill Hendon

elderly programs. Norton was recently awarded for her work in organizing and developing the Congressional Senior Citizens Intern Program. She was also featured in a story on the program published Wednesday in The Washington Post.

Hendon said he would be announcing within the next few days the application procedure for individuals interested in participating in the Senior Citizens Intern Program and as a delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

## Man Stabbed To Death

A young Marshall man was fatally stabbed Wednesday night, Feb. 4, during a fight which occurred in a parking lot near Vader's Barber Shop and a carwash just outside the city limits on the Marshall Bypass, according to the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

Charles Sexton Jr., 17, died as a result of the 7:15 p.m. incident. Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said Kenny Smith, 23, of Mars Hill was taken into custody Wednesday night and charged with murder in Sexton's death. A preliminary hearing on the charges is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 13.

Smith was released on a \$10,000 bond Monday by Judge Lyles, Ponder said.

Ponder said he was informed that Sexton and three companions, Robert Ray, David and Mickey Massey of Route 1 Marshall, had pulled into the parking lot next to Smith's vehicle. After an exchange of words between Sexton and Smith, Ponder said, a fight between the two began and Sexton was wounded in the chest.

An ambulance rushed the injured man to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville where a medical examiner, Dr. George Simpson, pronounced Sexton dead.

The parking lot where the incident occurred is known as a gathering place for young people during nights and on weekends.



BONNIE HILL CHURCH has been a cohesive force in western Madison County for nearly a century. Kevin Morley talked with several people who remember parts of the church's history. See his story on Page 3.