

## Editorials

### Congratulations On Safety Awards

Congratulations are in order for the Madison County Public Schools on their winning a first-year on-the-job safety award for 1980 from the N.C. Department of Labor.

The award was presented to the board of education and to each of the county's seven schools at a banquet Friday night in Asheville. The banquet was sponsored by Western Carolina Industries, Inc., and the N.C. Department of Labor.

Dr. Owen Fish, ESEA Title I director, said the safety achievement awards were earned in part by the safety inspections carried out at the schools each month. A safety committee is set up at each school and makes a safety tour of the schools and grounds once a month. The committees usually consist of the principal, the custodian or another worker and a faculty member, Fish said. The committees complete forms monthly after their inspections and send in forms to the superintendent's office.

"This is how we completed 405,000 man-hours of work during 1980 without a lost-

time accident," Fish said.

That's a lot of safely worked man-hours, and we hope the school safety committees will continue to keep a vigilant eye for unsafe conditions in the schools, not only for the personnel but for all the students entrusted to their keeping.

Other western North Carolina school systems receiving safety awards at the Friday night banquet were: Hendersonville City Schools, and Macon County schools, first-year awards; Rutherford County Schools and Swain County Schools, second-year awards; Tryon City Schools and Cherokee County Schools, third consecutive year awards.

Also bringing safety awards home to Madison were Micro Switch of Mars Hill, Deringer Manufacturing Company of Marshall, the County of Madison and the Town of Mars Hill.

All of these should be commended for their safety consciousness, and wished continued success in on-the-job safety for 1981.

## Heard and Seen

By POP STORY

The 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church in Marshall was observed last Sunday with the Rev. Nane Starnes of Asheville delivering the morning message. Several former pastors and visitors were recognized by Wade Huey and special music was enjoyed.

Following the service, luncheon was served to approximately 100 members and guests in the Marshall school cafeteria. Singing was enjoyed at the church Sunday afternoon, climaxing a successful anniversary.

The Homecoming Committee was composed of Wade Huey, chairman; Mrs. James Story, Miss Billie Jean Haynie, Mrs. Florence Ramsey, Mrs. Debbie Worley and Lawrence Ponder.

Following is a brief history of the church which was compiled by Mrs. James Story:

### HISTORY OF MARSHALL BAPTIST CHURCH

Marshall Baptist Church was organized about 1830 (exact date unknown) and was called "The Old River Hill Baptist Church." According to Outlines of History of the French Broad Baptist Association, it was under the influence of the Rev. John Ammons that the church was organized. Mr. Ammons secured an appropriation of \$75 from the Domestic Mission Board of Marion, Ala., for support of work of the church, and served as its pastor from 1859-1860, and from 1881-1891. The Rev. Stephen Wallin was probably the first regular pastor of the church.

The church was left "homeless" when property that included the church building was purchased by a Dr. Clark just prior to the Civil War. The church moved to the old Chunn-Rollins house at the extreme west end of Marshall, but worshipped there only a short time and then was inactive for a period of time during the war.

The next move was to the courthouse with a church membership of 50. Later, a "House of Worship" was built on Blannahasset Island, approximately where Marshall Elementary School is now located. A flood in June, 1876 badly damaged the church building and two years later

the building was moved from the Island. A lot was purchased at the west end of Marshall and a new building erected. The building was used by Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians and was known as "The Union Church."

In 1903, the Baptist membership purchased a lot where the present church is located and a new building was erected at a cost of \$4,500. The first service was held in the new church in September, 1905. The Rev. Martin A. Wood was pastor at that time.

On Jan. 28, 1912, the church building and its entire contents, with exception of the walls, were destroyed by fire. There was no insurance on the building and the 206 members faced a two thousand dollar loss. However, by January 1913, the church members had rebuilt the entire interior. In the early 1940's the church basement was enlarged to accommodate a Sunday School class, a recreation area, a kitchen and restroom.

Construction of the present church building was begun in May, 1959, and the first service in the new church was held on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. A dedication service was held the following Sunday. The church was debt-free by the end of 1963, and a note-burning service was held on Sunday morning, Feb. 2, 1964, with three former pastors taking part.

The church has had 46 pastors since its beginning, 16 of whom are still living. They are: The Reverends Horace L. Smith, Hoyt Blackwell, Ollin Owens, Aden Childress, Erskine V. Plemmons, W.D. Williamson, Jarvis Teague, Dawyer D. Gross, Glen Ramsey Jr., Jack Thomas, Albert Peverall Jr., Glenn Whitley, Spencer LeGrand, Vincent Young, Kenneth Lynch and Michael Minnix.

Recently, the church membership voted to change the name of the church to "The First Baptist Church."

The church has been without a regular pastor since March of this year. The Rev. James H. Smith of Weaverville is serving as interim pastor.

At the present time, the church has 224 resident members and 84 non-resident members.

## Editor's Notebook

Spring certainly must be the time of year for declaring special days, weeks and months. The news releases are pouring in proclaiming this week or that day or next month as state or national something-or-other time.

Last week was National Secretary Week and last Wednesday was National Secretary Day. And, with the women's movement, secretaries are no longer satisfied with being taken to lunch on their special day. They used to settle for the \$3.95 blueplate special, but now they want two weeks in the Bahamas at a seminar on improving office procedure.

Governor Jim Hunt also proclaimed last week as Forgotten Victims Week in North Carolina. Forgotten Victims Week? I spent at least two days trying to figure out if I had forgotten any victims. The first day I sank into remorse over the prospects of forgetting someone, then I began to wonder if I even knew any victims to forget. The second day I decided to forget it.

May is Older Americans Month in North Carolina. I think June is National Dairy Month. I thought about taking a cow to lunch during June, but now cows probably want two weeks in Wisconsin.

It hasn't been proclaimed yet, but I highly suspect that April 20-25 was Na-

tional Automobile Trouble Week. That week my trusty Capri decided to have multiple problems which would delight auto repairmen enough to proclaim National Fix It Week. Others joined in the celebration of National Automobile Trouble Week. Our other vehicle decided to cough and sputter and stall at stoplights. Julia William's Gremlin developed gremlins in the radiator and knocked off during advertising sales rounds. Writer Kevin Morley's Subaru decided to undo the repair job he recently performed on it. And, writer Scott Fitzgerald decided his Super J-5 Cliff-Climbing, Tree-Eating, River Jumping Jeep with elephant-stomping tires was chug-a-lugging too many gallons of petrol, so he put it up for sale. So much for National Auto Trouble Week.

And now they're doubling up on the months, May is also Mental Health Month in North Carolina. I'd take a psychiatrist to lunch, but I can't afford the \$75 he'd charge me for the hour of his time.

April 26 through May 2 is also Emergency Medical Service Week here in the state. The EMS folks do a good job, but I don't care to use any of their services this week, or any other for that matter.

All of these days, weeks and months are set aside or proclaimed to recognize and honor many worthy causes and institutions, but I think it would be easy to let this concept get out of hand. Lobbyist in Raleigh and Congress might get by with instituting all sorts of strange proclamations in the future.

Teen Magazine and Clearasil would probably like to have a National Pimple Week and National Training Bra Month. Then we would have to take a pimply-faced pubescent kid to lunch. The prospects are endless and ridiculous.

However, I wouldn't object too strenuously to someone proclaiming a statewide or national Editor's Week. In fact, it's not a bad idea. During that week, editors would be exempt from receiving phone calls, meeting deadlines and explaining to Aunt Minnie why the 10 page article she submitted concerning the cornbread and bean supper she had for her relatives was reduced to a 16 line, one column article on the social page.

Governor Hunt, are you listening?

*Nicholas Hancock*

Nicholas Hancock  
Editor

## May Is Mental Health Month

May is Mental Health Month in North Carolina, and the Mental Health Association in North Carolina will be carrying out a statewide fund raising campaign throughout the month.

The house-to-house campaign in Madison County will

be coordinated by three community chairpersons located in three communities. Mrs. Carol Gunter of Genter Town, Diane Hill of Mars Hill and Mrs. Salena Fisher of Marshall have been named Mental Health Bellringer chairpersons for their respective areas.

As a volunteer agency, the N.C. Mental Health Association works on behalf of the mentally and emotionally disturbed and to promote mental health. The association is a non-profit, non-governmental agency and so must depend on private contributions such as the funds

collected in the Bellringer drive.

Bellringer workers collecting in Mars Hill include Ann Bussard, Polly Cheek, Deborah Duyck, Diane Hill, Karen Hinton, Mary Howell, Dorothy Huff, Ann Melvin, Martha O'Brien, Charity Ray and Virginia Teague.

## Living and Growing

### Special People Are Unique

By CARL MUMPOWER  
M.S.W.

They are all around us, and contrary to popular opinion, there are as many now as there ever were. Unfortunately, in this complex world that we live in, special people often don't stand out as such.

So, what makes a special person? Is it something you

are born with or do we cultivate our specialness? I lean toward the latter of the two. Any plot of soil has the capacity to grow either weeds or vegetables, depending on the care that soil receives. It's pretty much the same with people. Specialness comes naturally to very few of us and is most often the product of a good bit of energy and commitment.

Most often our specialness has to come as a consequence of other things. By seeking to be honest, purposeful, committed, and loving people, we can directly achieve a degree of specialness. It's questionable that trying to become special for special's sake can work.

In an age of conformity, sameness, and ambivalence, a

special person stands but through their uniqueness, clarity, and individuality.

These are tough characteristics to cultivate, and they seldom come to us of their own accord. The seed is there, but we've got to make it grow.

Specialness has a tendency to get lost in the sometimes selfish, impulsive, and pleasure oriented world in which we live. It can't be picked up by watching T.V., nor can we acquire it by reading about other special people. We can obtain specialness only through our own effort to become better and to represent life's more positive and valued forces.

So, how about you, are you special? Of course, unfortunately, your specialness may not be out where anyone can experience it. Keep in mind that we're not talking about perfection. Human is seldom perfect, but it can be something positive. By being special you risk criticism from those who aren't. On the other hand, being special protects you from the most damaging form of criticism — your own realization that you are not among those who choose to be special.

## Letters To The Editor

### School Board Members Should Ride Bus

Editor:

I have been watching The News Record for the last two months, and I like the coverage you have been giving the board of education. I am a taxpayer who is tired of the way the board has been ripping off the taxpayers.

Regarding the letter in last week's (April 23) paper which was supposed to have been written by eighth graders about how they thought The News Record wasn't serving the people of Madison County, I suspect that letter was written by one of the political friends who doesn't like to see the truth printed. I hope you continue to print the truth.

Everyone knows the voters of Madison County voted down the new consolidated school, but the school board is going to cram it down our throats anyway and add another tax burden on the taxpayers. People in Madison County will see our children bussed to two schools in Marshall, one for grammar school and one for high school. According to the board of education, the people don't have any voice in what they do to our children.

I wish Mr. Edwards and the board members had to ride the school bus from the head of Spring Creek to Marshall for about a month. They would probably draw up plans for two high schools and four grammar schools in the county.

If I were going to hide \$147,000 and get caught, I believe I would call it an "ace in the hole" too. I wonder how many years they have had aces in the hole and didn't get caught. Now the board is asking for \$748,000. I wonder what happened to the "ace in the hole." I can't count too well, but with the "ace" Mr. Edwards and the board will have \$865,000 to work with next year, and that's not counting the profit the lunchrooms make this year. I know the lunchrooms aren't suppose to

make a profit, but they do in Madison County.

I think Mr. Edwards thinks more of how much the county commissioners are going to give him than the conditions our schools are in. I have been to the Hot Springs, Spring Creek and Laure Schools and they are in bad shape. The children get cold because the heat is turned down so low. We could spend more money on these schools and they would not be so hard to heat. We could lower the ceilings and insulate them, and remove the large windows and replace them with smaller windows.

I bet Mr. Edwards doesn't turn down the heat in his office to conserve energy. Why don't the schools change the oil burning furnaces back to coal? This would be a big savings for the schools.

People are selling their homes and leaving the county because politics have become more important in our schools than the welfare of our children. I have heard one school board member say, "Politics first, religion second." I don't know where he puts our children's welfare. If you are lucky enough to belong to a family which belongs to a certain political party in Madison, you can get a job doing anything in our schools, whether you are qualified or not. If you belong to the other side, forget it. You don't stand a chance of teaching in the Madison County school system.

I wish the state of North Carolina would give the western part of the county to Tennessee. I know we would have better schools and better roads to our schools. By the way, I would like to see Governor Hunt ride that school bus along with Mr. Edwards and the board members. After a month, he would build a super highway to the high school.

Carlis R. Roberts  
Hot Springs, N.C.



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