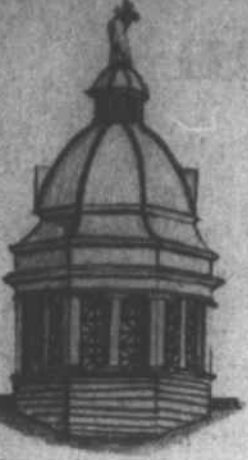


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On 11th District Tour

Hendon Aide Visits Madison, Plans Return Trip Later

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Bob Orr, district administrative assistant to Rep. Bill Hendon, sat in the commissioners' office in the Madison County courthouse Thursday morning waiting to greet any county residents who had a comment or problem to pass along to Hendon, the 11th District congressman from Asheville.

Orr was into his fourth stop on a 15 county tour during the month of May to meet one-on-one with constituents to listen to views and comments about problems citizens may be having with federal agencies.

"I'm primarily here to listen," Orr said, explaining that the tour is an effort to give the voters a voice in what goes on in Washington.

"Bill Hendon can't vote the way every individual would like for him to, but he wants to know how people feel about the issues. We want to be out in the communities and be available for folks to come by and make comments and tell us their problems," he said.

Orr, a Hendersonville native and former Asheville attorney, said he sees the tour of the 11th District counties as an

extension of his work in Hendon's district office in Asheville. His duties there consist of coordinating business concerning legislative questions with Hendon's Washington office, researching local issues which are tied into the federal government, representing Hendon at various meetings and functions, and meeting with local officials to get their comments on federal issues that effect local government.

"We handle a lot of peoples' personal problems that involve the federal government in some fashion; Social Security benefits, veterans' disability problems, and Farmer's Home Administration problems," Orr said.

"A lot of people sort of turn to their congressman as a last resort when they've been unable to get any results from some federal agency," he said. "Many things come along that we at the office feel a very personal interest in. You feel that you're helping folks in a special way."

Orr explained that the district office is also involved with some of the major issues concerning Western North Carolina such as wilderness designation, the Appalachian



Bob Orr

Regional Commission, the I-26 Mills River highway connector, and road projects near Zirconia south of Hendersonville.

Orr said he plans to visit the counties in the 11th District "probably every two months," that trying to travel

to 15 counties every month would keep him away from his office duties too much of the time. During subsequent visits to Madison County, Orr plans to be located in different communities for each visit. "We will probably be in Mars Hill for the next visit, and on later

visits we will probably visit some of the community stores to talk with constituents in the various neighborhoods," he said.

"I enjoy getting out and going around western North Carolina, that's something I didn't get to do much of as a child growing up in Hendersonville," he said. "I like meeting people and seeing the places that make western North Carolina special."

Orr said that anyone with a problem can also contact him at the district office on the upper level of the Asheville Mall where he is available on a regular basis for constituent service. "We're trying to make the bureaucracy work — trying to cut through the red tape," he said.

Finishing out the month, Orr will visit Polk County on Monday, May 18; Haywood County on Thursday, May 28; Jackson County on Friday, May 29; and Swain County on Friday afternoon, May 29.

Orr did not include a visit to Rutherford County because Hendon maintains a field office there in the Tri-City Mall in Forest City, staffed by Wilbur Burgin, a retired Navy pilot.



EXAM CRAZIES — (l-r) Mike Duncan, Dallas Drake and Bill Robertson take a break from final exams by making use of a muddy construction site near the campus. David Diggers (bottom photo) washes off the three mud bathers who hope they aren't washed up academically after the exam results are posted. (Photos By Scott Fitzgerald)

Marshall Aldermen To Hold Sewer Bond Referendum

The Marshall Board of Aldermen decided at its May meeting to hold a new sewer bond referendum to secure \$200,000 as matching funds for nearly \$1.4 million in state and federal grants to complete the town's sewer system.

The aldermen said they felt town residents were entitled to a new referendum since only a portion of the money from a 1974 bond issue passed by voters has been used. The 1974 bond issue was for \$185,000, and to date, only the portion allotted for water improvement has been spent in upgrading the water and sewer system.

Town engineers, in reviewing the cost of the sewer project, said a \$1,225,000 sewer improvement project could be acquired by the town at a cost to the users of \$250,000 or less. They said plans are now completed for the entire project and that federal and state funds are committed for the project.

The complete project will include a new sewer system at the Walnut Creek Housing Authority down Walnut Creek; the Courthouse Hollow area and upward along Hill Street; the Rollins residential area including a pumping station; a new line on the south side of the French Broad River serving Worley Hollow, Rector's Corner and the Cotton Mill Hill area; Floodproofing three pumping stations and reworking the present treatment plant including increasing the capacity and providing a secondary treatment plant as required by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Aldermen said only the water improvement phase of the sewer improvement project was carried out after the 1974 bond referendum because condemnation of the Hunter Creek Dam caused extensive plan changes. They said condemning the dam resulted in re-engineering and added work to develop deep wells for the water supply to the town. This work was completed two years ago.

At the time of the bond issue, bonds were required to be issued within five years. The five years was extended to seven years by a legislative act in 1975. According to town officials, final plans and specifications for the project were not completed within the seven year period, nor had the town received final approval on the applications for the federal and state funds.

The Local Government Commission in Raleigh raised questions about the validity of the bonds if they were issued after the extension, and the same question was raised by the New York Bond Council. After conferring with town engineers and the Local Government Commission, the aldermen elected to call a new referendum to assure completion of the sewer project without any obligations on the technicality.

The board said the Farmers Home Administration is committed to purchase the sewer improvement bonds issued by the town at a rate presently standing at 5 percent with 40 years allowed for repayment.

The plans and specifications for the project are on file at the Town Hall for anyone wishing to view them, the aldermen said.

Hendon: CIA Agents Must Be Protected

Congressman Bill Hendon announced today that he is cosponsoring legislation that would make it a federal crime to divulge the identity of American intelligence agents working abroad.

Hendon noted that there are several publications, some of which are operated and published by American citizens, that have printed the names of U.S. intelligence agents working overseas. These disclosures led to the death of the CIA station chief in Athens, Greece, and most recently a machine gun assault on the station chief in Jamaica, who escaped unharmed.

"Our intelligence agents are working at great personal risk in defense of our country and they must not be further endangered by irresponsible disclosures," the congressman said. "In fact, they must be fully protected."

"For this reason, I am cosponsoring the Intelligence Agents Identities Protection Act, which would provide penalties of up to 30 years in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine for anyone convicted of disclosing the identity of an individual engaged by our government in foreign intelligence or counterintelligence," Hendon said.

The congressman said the proposed legislation has been thoroughly researched by legal staff to insure full First Amendment rights are also protected.

Longridge Project Loses To Numbers

By SCOTT FITZGERALD

The Department of Housing and Urban Development turned down an application from the Mars Hill Town Council for grant monies that would have been used for the improvement of the Longridge area. HUD turned the application down because it felt there wasn't a significant number of people involved in the project.

In January of this year HUD received the application from the Mars Hill aldermen. The application requested funds to be used for housing, septic tank, road and sewer improvement and service. Funds of approximately \$535,000.00 was needed to carry out the project to its completion. The project did not include any plans for beautification. All improvements were to be made on existing conditions to improve the living facilities.

The Longridge area has approximately 59 residents living in 30 houses. Most of these residents are older people who are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to repair their homes.

HUD refused the application due to the small number of people involved, however, HUD awarded grant monies to areas such as Mecklenburg and Wake counties and to the towns of Monroe and Thomasville. These areas are more densely populated, and it was deter-

mined by HUD that these areas were in much greater need of monies to be used for improvement of conditions.

HUD rationalized that the small ratio of affected persons per unit (2 per house in Mars Hill) could not substantiate enough convincing evidence to give grant funds. HUD also said that the Mars Hill Community had a high income level for most of its residents. "This high level of resident income hurt the chances of the needy people in the area," according to Becky Williams of the Land-Of-Sky Regional Council.

The aldermen are not giving up on the project even though HUD's refusal is a great setback. The councilmen are going to try to put the project into phases. The Longridge area could possibly be considered in conjunction with a pocket plan. A pocket plan would include areas of the counties that required certain improvements. This method would not solve all the problems of the Longridge residents but it would be a start toward total improvement of the community. The aldermen are apparently greatly distressed at this setback, but presently their hands are tied in trying to help the residents, they said. It seems the council is going to have to be patient, but patience will not improve Longridge.

N.C. Unemployment Shows Decline

The county-by-county breakdown of unemployment in North Carolina in March showed a slight decline in 73 counties, an increase in 30 counties, and no change in seven counties.

The county figures reflected the steady and continuous high trend of joblessness statewide during March when the statewide figure was 6.9 percent, down from the 7.2 percent a month earlier.

For the fourth straight month, Swain County registered the highest unemployment rate in March with 22.6 percent, representing 1,110 unemployed persons. That figure was down from 25.4 percent a month earlier. Orange County, on the other hand, held the lowest unemployment rate among the counties for the fourth consecutive month with 3.5.

Preliminary labor source data compiled by the ESC for Madison County for the month of March shows the county unemployment rate at 7.0 percent. Madison County has a civilian labor force of 8,120 with 570 persons listed as unemployed.