

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Library
Marshall, NC 28753 9/81

80th Year No. 35

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL

15c Per Copy

Expressway Bringing Changes To Madison

Special To The News Record

Fundamental changes in the lifestyle of the Marshall-Mars Hill-Weaverville triangle are expected to be brought about by the new U.S. 25-70 expressway linking Marshall and Jupiter with the existing 19-23 highway to Asheville.

And even though a mile of the new road has yet to be paved, enough traffic is using the road so that in the early evening one car is nearly always within sight of another.

So the new road is already:

—Cutting get-to-work time for some people by up to half.

—Raising property values along its route.

—Increasing population in the triangle area of Madison and north Buncombe counties.

Opinions on the increase in real estate values range from 5% to 25%, depending who you ask — though real estate people agree there has been an increase.

Ron Kiser, of Timberline Realty in Asheville, who lives in Mars Hill, says he believes prices are up 5% to 10% for the area two miles either side of the new road, but that people are mainly buying raw land more than houses due to high interest rates on mortgages.

Clay Jenkins, whose real estate office is in Weaverville's Tri-Cities area, thinks prices are up 20% to 25% for land three to four miles from the new highway — though, he observes, mountain tracts are hard to compare since each piece can be so different.



Lee Roy Griffin

Not only are prices up, says Jenkins, but there's more activity. Buyers along the road want to be where they can get into Asheville quickly for jobs, school or hospital care, he says. And the Asheville Chamber of Commerce reports that people inquiring about the area include half who are looking for jobs as well as property.

Lee Roy Griffin, who lives in Weaverville and has his real estate office in Marshall, says he sees prices of real estate increasing clear to the Ten-

nessee line. Now that it's so easy to get to Marshall, he says, summer home buyers are willing to consider cabins that take a little getting to from Marshall.

At any rate, population near the already paved section of the road has grown so fast that the Red Oak School in Jupiter has 20 more pupils this fall, requiring one new teacher and a mobile classroom unit. Enrollment at the school had remained about the same for the previous 10 to 12 years, says Bill Brigman, principal of the grades 1-8 school.

And the new road has already started to shrink time and distance for long-time residents. Shirley Hensley, who lives in the Jupiter area and works in Weaverville, reports she gets to work twice as fast.

When the road is fully (and officially) open, there will be more immediate effects. Obviously, says Dr. David Knisley of Mars Hill, there will be less traffic through Mars Hill. Up to now, some drivers have preferred to use Route 213 through Mars Hill in order to avoid the present 25-70 "River Road," with its curves between rocky bluffs and the French Broad.

Irma Crawford of Stoney Knob says "on the River Road, there are all those big rocks looking out at me. I've always been sure one would fall on me."

But these small changes are just the beginning, says Dr. Donald Anderson, chairman of Mars Hill College's



Construction Is Nearly Completed At Western End Of New Expressway

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who has been collecting facts and figures about the area. He sees Marshall, Mars Hill and Weaverville as a fast-development triangle, and expects fundamental change in the pat-

tern of local people's lives over a period of four or five years.

Now, he says, there is a great exodus from Madison County every morning of people who have to leave the county to find work — to Buncombe, to greater

Asheville, to Enka. But in the next five years, says Anderson, he expects the new road to attract small, decentralized industries to Madison County so people can work near home. Thus, he says,

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New Location



NEW LOCATION — The News Record has completed the moving of its business offices to the new location between Shady Side Florist and Bowman Hardware on Main Street in Marshall. The newspaper telephone number is still 649-2741. Story Printing Co., located beside French Broad Chevrolet Co., has changed its telephone number to 649-3745.

Four-Lane Completion Set For Late January

Schedule for official openings of the new U.S. 25-70 highway from Weaverville to Marshall has not yet been firmed up, according to Earl McEntire, district engineer of the State Department of Transportation.

But he suggests these may be the dates, subject to review:

PART A, at the intersection of 25-70 and the 25-70 Bypass at Marshall, should be basically complete by January but finishing work may extend into spring.

PART B, from the U.S. 25-70 Bypass at Marshall to a point north of the Jupiter road, including the section not yet surfaced, should follow the same schedule as Part A.

PART C, from the Jupiter road to the existing U.S. 19-23 Bypass at Weaverville, will open officially in October.

The existing 25-70 (the River Road) will give its number to the new highway. State Road 191 has been renumbered as Route 251 as it passes through Woodfin — and this number will be used from the point where it joins the present

25-70, following the River Road into Marshall.

In other news linked to the new highway, the state is studying the need for a traffic light at the New Stock Road exit from the 19-23 Bypass at Woodland Hills. Criteria for such a light are strict, says McEntire, and funding would have to be approved by Raleigh even if the criteria fit. But he said the situation will be reviewed in the light of added traffic to the Marshall Weaverville-Mars Hill triangle.

The purpose of the law is to help offset some \$11 million

Board Adopts Tuition Policy, Deliberates Swann's Request

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

In a special called meeting Aug. 19, the Madison County Board of Education adopted a resolution to comply with a new state law which requires the board to charge tuition to students from out of state, from out of the school district or those residing on military reservations. The board also heard, but took no action on, a request from Roger Swann to transfer his son's school records to Yancey County school system.

In adopting the resolution, which sets a tuition policy for the county system, the board voted to charge \$170 tuition to any students which fall into the categories set out in the new law, which was sponsored by State Rep. Lura S. Tally, D-Cumberland.

However, Superintendent Robert L. Edwards said no students were charged tuition last year to attend Madison County schools, and he does not expect to charge any students this year. But, Edwards said he has sent notices to the principals to "be on the alert" for any students which come under the law.

The new law, General Statute 115C-366, was designed to help local school boards recoup losses in federal aid, but it may have a "major financial impact on a segment of the public which can ill afford further monetary setbacks," according to a state education official.

The purpose of the law is to help offset some \$11 million

the state will lose in federal impact aid. That aid has been provided by the government because military families and residents of federal low-rent housing often do not pay state or federal taxes while attending state schools.

According to reports from Raleigh, some state officials say the law might be challenged in court on the basis that the students' right to free education provided under state constitution is being abridged by the new law.

No minimum tuition charge is established by the law, but it says the rates may not exceed the amount of per capita local funding. Edwards said the rate set by the board last Wednesday was the maximum allowed by this rule in the law for the county system. The school system received \$550,000 in local funds, and has a total enrollment of 2,946 students for this school year, down 49 students from the same reporting period of last year.

Edwards said he doesn't see much impact on Madison County students in regard to the tuition law, "it was mainly designed for counties having military bases," he said.

In another matter at the meeting, the board heard a request from Roger Swann of Mars Hill to transfer his son's school records to Yancey County. Swann told the board his son was now under the legal custody of his parents, Blaine and Hazel Swann who

live in Yancey County, and that as a resident of Yancey his records needed to be sent to Mt. Heritage High School.

The board, through its attorney Larry Leake, told Swann that since his parents were the legal guardians of the boy, they should have the Yancey County school officials request the boy's records. The board took no action pending a request from Yancey school officials.

In his second appearance before the board this month, Swann told the board that his son, Jeffrey Britt, a ninth grade student, had been living in Yancey County since Aug. 11 and that he had spent "60 percent of the summer with his grandparents." Swann said since his job requires his being away from home most

weekdays and his wife teaches at Mt. Heritage, he felt it was in the best interest of his son to live with his parents and attend school in Yancey.

Leake told Swann and his attorney, Bruce Briggs, that after a phone conversation with the superintendent of Yancey schools "it appears on the surface that this is a device to allow your child to go to Yancey County schools. In my opinion, Madison County still has jurisdiction at this time," he said.

"That's not correct," Swann countered. But Leake questioned the purpose of Swann's custody transfer as being one to circumvent Madison's attendance policy.

Briggs asked the board if they were aware of any Madison residents teaching in the Buncombe County schools who were allowed to take their

children to Buncombe schools. Both Edwards and Leake denied any knowledge of such a situation.

Even though Swann said he was appealing on behalf of his father who was not at the meeting, Leake said the request for the transfer of the records needed to be signed by "those who have custody" of the child. The board decided to wait until it heard from Yancey school officials. Until the records are transferred, Swann's son will not be officially registered in the Yancey schools.

Monday, Edwards said the board had received a request from Yancey, but the board will not act on the request until its Sept. 8 meeting.

The board denied a previous request for reassignment of Swann's son to Yancey County at its Aug. 3 meeting.

Man Jailed In Shooting

A 64-year old county man was jailed Tuesday for allegedly shooting another man during a fight inside Ingles's supermarket at the Madison Plaza shopping center.

Marshall Police Chief Bill Lisenbee said Starling Chandler, of Route 4, Marshall was jailed on charges of assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the 4:45 p.m. shooting of Baxter Shelton, 57, of Route 6, Marshall.

Shelton was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital where he was treated for a single gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Lisenbee said the shooting took place after the two men became involved in a scuffle when Shelton attempted to stop Chandler from harassing drivers in the parking lot of the shopping center.

He said Chandler was intoxicated and reportedly tried to force his way into several vehicles. Shelton attempted to

stop him and the two men entered the supermarket where they began wrestling.

Lisenbee said witnesses reported that both men were off their feet on the supermarket floor when Chandler pulled a .32 caliber revolver

and shot Shelton. The bullet pierced Shelton's lower abdomen, went through his body and exited his left buttock, he said.

Authorities at the jail said Chandler has been released on a \$2,000 bond.

Judge Appointed

A 27-year-old lawyer who once served as town attorney for Boone has been appointed to fill a judgeship in the 34th Judicial District created by the 1981 General Assembly.

He is Charles Philip Ginn, who has been a resident of Cary for the past year and is moving back to Boone.

Aides at the clerk of court's office here said Friday that Ginn probably will be sworn in after completing the 30-day residency required in the judicial district, which includes Watauga, Avery, Yancey, and Mitchell counties.

Ginn's appointment by Gov. Jim Hunt is for a term ending on Dec. 5, 1982. He could run for a four-year term in the November 1982 election.

He will join Chief District Court Judge Robert H. Lacey and Judge Alexander Lyerly, both Republicans, in the district.

Ginn is a 1974 graduate of Appalachian State University and earned his degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1977. He began his law practice in Boone, resigning as town attorney in 1978 to join the Morganton firm of Patton, Statum and Thompson.

N.C. Rate Bureau Proposes New Auto Rates

The North Carolina Rate Bureau today proposed an average increase of 10 percent in the overall rate level for personal car insurance.

The bureau proposed Jan. 1, 1982, as the effective date for the new rates which are subject to approval by the state insurance commissioners.

Personal automobile insurance rate increases are restricted by law to a percentage that is governed by increases in the U.S. Consumer Price Index.

The bureau's filing will apply to all policies written voluntarily and the statutorily defined "clean risks" placed

in the North Carolina Reinsurance Facility. The facility filed new rates which will average 25.8 percent higher than current rates. These are not subject to the statutory cap and can be charged to all facility policies except "clean risks" as defined by statute.

Statistical data on paid

claims, other expenses and trends indicated the need for an overall average increase of 18 percent, said Thomas S. Carpenter, chairman of the rate bureau.

The bureau requested an average 3.4 percent increase in the rate level for auto liability insurance and an

average 19.7 percent increase in the rate level for the collision and comprehensive insurance coverages.

Even with inflation moderating, by the time our rates can be implemented all of these indexes will have increased several additional percentage points," he said.