



# THE NEWS RECORD

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THURSDAY

## Madison Native Celebrates 100th

James ("Jim Frank") Buckner, who lives in the Bethel-Middle Fork area of Madison County, celebrated his 100th birthday Sept. 2. He makes his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred (Myrtle) Rice, Route 2, Mars Hill, in the Greater Ivy Community. He was honored recently by a birthday celebration and by his Masonic Lodge.

He is the son of the late John Henry Buckner and Loretta Ramsey Buckner. One brother, Lucillas Buckner, and one sister, Rellie Buckner, are deceased. After his mother's death, his father married Julia Briggs, and a half-brother, Marty Buckner of the Bull Creek section of Madison County; and a half-sister, Mrs. Carl H. (Elizabeth) Lowrie, of El Paso, Texas, are still living.

"Jim Frank" married Mittie Ray, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William ("Bill") Ray, and Malissa Briggs Ray, both deceased. He is the father of four daughters: Mrs. George (Fuchia) Woody, Mars Hill; Mrs. Ed (Virgie) Ball and Mrs. Fred (Myrtle) Rice, both of Route 2, Mars Hill; and Mrs. Reginald (Vivian) Taylor, Route 3, Burnsville. One daughter, Mrs. Bryan (Bonnie) Robinson, of Weaverville, is deceased. His three sons, also deceased, were Roy Buckner, Ralph Buckner and Will Buckner.

### Hard Work And Clean Living

Members of his family and friends held a special birthday celebration for Mr. Buckner on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ball. In addition to the dinner, and the reminiscence of recalling past days and events, Buckner spent some time showing those attending his large stack of birthday cards, two of which were especially enjoyed: one from the White House, Washington, D.C. which said, "Dear Mr. Buckner: Nancy and I congratulate you as you celebrate your 100th birthday. We are delighted to share the joy of this happy occasion with your family and friends and we send you our warmest wishes. Sincerely, Ronald Reagan."

The other from the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh: "Dear Mr. Buckner: I want to join with your family and friends in wishing you a happy birthday. This is an important day for you, and I am pleased to have an opportunity to send you my best wishes. You are a special person, and I hope that your day is special, too. My warmest personal regards. Sincerely, Jim Hunt."

"All my many cards are beautiful and I enjoy and appreciate them very much," he said, but the special ones from the President of the United

States and the Governor of North Carolina, I plan to have framed and hang in my living room."

Mr. Buckner attended Bethel Elementary School and spent two years in Washington College, near Jonesboro, Tenn. He spent his working years as a farmer and a timber man. He hauled lumber and logged for saw mills in Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, and Buncombe counties in North Carolina and adjoining counties in Tennessee. "I had four big mules, he says, "which I used to pull big logs to the saw mills, and many times I had to hitch up all four to pull the biggest and longest logs with."

For a man of his age, Buckner appears to be in good physical condition. His hearing is somewhat impaired due to an accident in early manhood.

"I was struck with lightning," he says, "which burst an ear drum, just prior to World War I. I was feeding the cattle and mules, and had a mattock in my hand which I was using to cut the wire around a bale of hay, when the lightning struck a tree near me and came down the mattock and into the ground. It's a wonder I wasn't killed, but only an ear drum was burst."

His eyesight is beginning to fail to some degree. "Until a year ago," he says, "I could read the newspaper without glasses, but I now have to have them to read the paper and my large print Bible."

A lifelong Democrat and the oldest living member of the Bethel Baptist Church and the Bald Creek Lodge AF and AM, Number 397, Buckner loves to tell how much he loves them. "The Lord has always been good to me. I pray an awful lot," he says, "and I always thank him for letting me live so long."

When asked to what he attributed his long life, he replied without any hesitation, "Hard work and clean living, and the blessing of the Good Lord."

On Saturday evening, Sept. 19, Buckner was honored by the Bald Creek Lodge, No. 397, AF and AM, when the Lodge dedicated the Old Timers Night to be "The Jim Frank Buckner Night" and Tommy Morrow of Burnsville, master of the Lodge, presented him with a plaque bearing the Masonic emblem and read as follows:

"Presented to Brother Jim Frank Buckner, the oldest living member of Bald Creek Lodge No. 397 AF and AM, in honor of his 100th birthday, Sept. 2, 1981."

Starling Ponder, a past master of the Lodge, served as master of ceremonies. Speakers were the Rev. Joe



CENTENARIAN—Mr. Jim Frank Buckner (left) is presented a plaque by Tommy Morrow, Master of Bald Creek Masonic Lodge, in honor of Buckner's 100th birthday.

Smith, pastor of the Bethel church; and Mr. Kolen Flack of the Hominy Lodge, Candler.

In response to the presentation Mr. Buckner told the group how much he counted it a privilege to be a Mason, and especially how much he enjoyed serving in the past as a member of the degree team. He showed a picture of the degree team to those attending and showed his wit by laughter and cracking jokes.

He said, "Last year someone asked me how old I was, and I told them that I didn't tell my age anymore, that I might want to get married again."

Mr. Buckner was the subject of a feature article by John Parris which appeared on the front page of The Asheville Citizen on Friday, Sept. 25 as a part of the "Roaming the Mountains" series.



Photo by Randy Cox

MADISON'S Kim Johnson helps keep the enthusiasm alive during the Patriots' 23-8 victory over Polk Central Friday night in O.E. Roberts Stadium. See story on Page 6.



BALD EAGLE IN NATURAL SETTING: The magnificent Bald Eagle is rare in the mountains of North Carolina although it once was reasonably plentiful. A new environmental habitat for the Bald Eagle has been established at Grandfather Mountain that puts the emblem bird of the United States back in the Blue Ridge Mountain scenery on

a regular basis. The pair of Eagles in the habitat came from the National Audubon Society Bald Eagle Propagation Program near St. Louis, Mo. The Eagles are flightless due to injury, and can therefore be seen in an open air exhibit near Grandfather's other habitats for bears, deer, and cougars. (Photo Courtesy of Hugh Morton)

## Local Volunteers Will Receive Governor's Awards Saturday

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Nine Madison County residents will be honored by Gov. Jim Hunt in Asheville Saturday as they receive awards from the governor for outstanding volunteer services rendered to their communities and the county.

Individuals designated to receive awards in three of nine service categories are Oletta Shelton, Ruth Anderson, Marie Osteen, Jerry Plemmons and Ruth Gregory

— Individual Human Service Volunteers; Joanne Ramsey, Pauline Zimmerman and Mary Howell — Individual Community Volunteer Leaders; Grover Angel — Senior Citizen Volunteer.

The awards ceremony, one of three to be held this fall, will be at 2:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Smoky Mountains Inn On The Plaza. Volunteers from 30 western North Carolina counties will participate in the event.

Hailing volunteers as

"America's greatest resource," Gov. Hunt said last week, "Every year thousands of volunteers in communities across North Carolina contribute millions of hours of time to worthwhile causes. They feed the hungry, care for the sick, tutor in our schools and perform hundreds of other tasks because they care. It is fitting, therefore, that we gather on this occasion to pay tribute to them."

Other officials involved in the ceremony will be Wayne

McDevitt, director of the Governor's Western Office; Charles V. Petty, executive director of the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs; Christine Corpening, chairman of Graham County Involvement Council; and Margaret McGrady, 1980 Governor's Award Recipient in Individual Human Service from Alleghany County.

A reception will be held at 2:30 with awards presentations following at 3 p.m. The event is open to the public.

## Mitchell School Official Agrees To Pay Board For Travel Expenses

From The MITCHELL JOURNAL

SPRUCE PINE — Retiring Mitchell County school superintendent Robert G. Young has agreed to pay the board of education \$825.88 the board said he owes for travel expenses during the year that ended July 1.

But school board members are encountering mounting criticism of the investigation of Young's expense account launched and made public by school board chairman A.D. Harrell.

And one member of the school board, Larry Mann, said the action quite likely will open the door to investigations of past accountings of funds by other employees and administrators of the system.

"Several people have told me they think Young is being singled out, and they don't like it," Mann said. "I think we'll probably be forced to look into other school employees' and administrators' records."

Young said he never intended to overcharge the board of education. "If I were

something, I want to pay it," he said. "I think that's fair." Young said that while friends have urged him to fight the issue, he is "just tired" of the entire matter which has made his last month as superintendent an unpleasant one. His resignation is effective Oct. 1.

Harrell first brought the issue to public attention early this month when he presented the auditors' work sheets to the county commissioners in an open meeting — over the objections of board members Duncan and Mann, who said they considered the matter closed.

But Harrell said his action was justified because members of his family had been harassed at church about the part he played in Young's resignation as school superintendent.

According to Duncan, the question of whether Young's expenses should be investigated was never brought to a vote before the full school board. "I am sure

The auditors indicated they had been told by Harrell "and another board member" to investigate Young, and had thought the request represented the wishes of the full board.

Young resigned as superintendent during the first week of the new school year as the investigation began, saying that "33 years in public education is enough."

WASHINGTON — Congressman Bill Hendon Wednesday rejected the 4.8 percent cost-of-living pay increase for his congressional staff that was to take effect Oct. 1. He said the money would be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

"At a time when American families are struggling desperately to make ends meet with their own incomes," the Western North Carolina Democrat said, "it is not surprising that my staff members are

concerned about the cost-of-living increase will add more than \$10,000 to the budget of each congressional office. The 11th District representative called on his fellow congressmen to join with him in opposing the increase. "If all the other members of the House and Senate do the same, we can force the Treasury to return the money to the taxpayers."

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## Dems To Gather For Fundraiser

North Carolina Democratic Party leaders and elected officials will gather with party members from across the state for the 21st annual Vance-Aycock fund raiser dinner set for Saturday, Oct. 3.

Party officials said they expect some 800 party loyalists for the \$50 a plate dinner being held at The Grove Park Inn in Asheville.

Congressman Ken Holland, from South Carolina's 4th District, will be the speaker for the fund-raising event that tops the list of Vance-Aycock weekend activities. Holland, a member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, is expected to focus remarks on the gathering on national politics and three state issues.

Tickets for the Vance-

Aycock dinner are available from Democratic County chairmen across the state, as well as through the Democratic party headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina. The dinner, being held in The Grove Park ballroom, will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the doors opening, for seating at 8:30 p.m. Saturday evening.

Activities for the weekend will kick off Friday evening with a dance being sponsored by the 11th Congressional District Young Democrats. The dance begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the ballroom. Entertainment for the dance will be provided by Doc's Mobile Sound Company. Tickets for the dance will be \$8 per person and will be available at the door. There

will be a cash bar for refreshments.

National Committeewoman and former North Carolina Democratic party chairperson, Betty McCann, will be the guest speaker Saturday morning at a breakfast being sponsored by the Buncombe County Democratic Women. The buffet breakfast, scheduled to start at 9 a.m. will be held in the ballroom. Tickets for the breakfast are \$10 per person and may be obtained by calling Frances Smith at 794-225-0249 or by sending a check made payable to the Democratic Women of Buncombe County, 225 Sandhill Road, Asheville, N.C. 28802.

An auctioneer's gavel will fall at noon on Saturday, signaling the beginning of a political memorabilia auction.

For two hours, items donated to the N.C. Democratic Party by such noted Party leaders as Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and U.S. House Majority Leader Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Works of art from North Carolina artist Bob Timberlake will also be auctioned along with numerous items given to the party for this fund raising event. One item expected to draw attention comes from North Carolina Attorney General Ruffin Edmisten, who is contributing two hours of work in a flower garden to the highest bidder.

This is the first time such an auction has been held by the Democrats in North Carolina.

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