



THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Library 9/81
Marshall, NC 28753

80th Year No. 51

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

15c Per Copy

Suicide Suspect Found In Tennessee Monday

A Goodlettsville, Tenn. man who abandoned his truck on Hot Springs Mountain sometime Saturday, and was the object of a Sunday manhunt, was picked up by Tennessee authorities near Nashville early Monday morning, according to Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder.

Randall Lee Jones, 20, abandoned his 1977 Ford pickup in a turnoff on Highway 25-70 and apparently left a suicide note in the vehicle. The truck was discovered by deer hunters who notified the Hot Springs Police Department about 5 p.m. Saturday.

The sheriff's department was contacted by the HSPD, and a full-scale search began at daylight Sunday morning. Ponder said the search through the rough, wooded terrain near where the vehicle was found was hampered by the large turnout of hunters for the last day of deer hunting season.

Assisting the sheriff's department in the

search were personnel from the Hot Springs police and fire departments and the Marshall Fire Department. Close to 75 people combed the woods within a mile radius of the vehicle and found no body or clues, Ponder said.

Jones' father came from Tennessee to join the search and retained possession of the truck which was out of gas and oil, according to Hot Springs Officer Joe Griffey.

Ponder said he suspected late Sunday that Jones had abandoned the truck and began hitchhiking from the area. A woman who had been shown a photograph of Jones said she saw a man of that description hitchhiking in the area Sunday.

Jones was last seen in Goodlettsville Thursday night where he reportedly had had a domestic argument with his wife. Ponder said Jones was to begin serving weekends in the Goodlettsville jail on Friday for DUI charges.

Mayor Proposes Change In Town Police Protection

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
and CAROLE HANNA

Marshall citizens and town officials are divided over a proposal suggested at the December board of aldermen meeting, a proposal which calls for the town to contract with the county sheriff's department to provide police protection for the municipality.

Some of the 30 or more residents at the meeting voiced growing concern over "lack of in-town police protection," but an immediate outcry arose in opposition to turning police duties over to the sheriff's department.

Mayor Lawrence Ponder said he's been considering a contractual agreement with the county "for a long time" as an effort to save the town several thousand dollars in expenditures.

Ponder pointed out that Marshall's tax base had not kept pace with the town's financial needs and steps would have to be taken to collect debts owed — such as water bill delinquencies — or reduce some services.

The service expenditure targeted by Ponder was the police department for which the town has budgeted \$49,400 for fiscal year 1981-82.

"If we could save money and have a better situation for all concerned, then we ought to consider it," Ponder said. But he noted that the idea is just in the talking stage and that "the mechanics have to be worked out first" before any action would be taken by town officials.

Jennifer Hunter told the meeting she fears the police department would be abolished without the knowledge or consent of Marshall residents. "It's a great comfort to me when I see the police car go by my house," she said.

But Ponder assured her that nothing would be done without the knowledge and consent of town residents.

He said he didn't know when town officials would meet with the sheriff and county officials on the matter, and that it would "take a lot of talking and planning" before a decision could be made.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder confirmed that he had not been consulted about the mat-

ter, but he said the town "would have to have a man on duty around the clock" if the change were made in the police protection system.

"If they'll tell me what they want to spend, I'll tell them what I can do for that amount of money," Sheriff Ponder said.

Mayor Ponder said he hadn't planned to hold a public hearing on the matter but he and aldermen would talk to members of the Marshall Merchants Association before any steps would be taken toward turning police duties over to the sheriff's department.

Several merchants, interviewed Monday, said they didn't favor contracting with the county for police protection, but they were quick to say they thought the present police department needs closer supervision, leadership and guidance.

"I personally think it would be a mistake to turn it over to the county," said Ed Niles, pharmacist and drugstore operator. He said it was the consensus of most merchants that the town should keep the police force but "we think they need some leadership and guidance."

Niles said a common complaint among several merchants was that on-duty police personnel travel to the Marshall bypass to provide an escort for Ingles bank deposits while leaving two banks unprotected on Main Street.

That complaint was echoed by auto dealer Chick Murray who said, "We don't have any police protection."

Murray, whose Chevrolet dealership is located less than 200 feet from police headquarters, said he is constantly plagued by thefts on his premises. "We're having to take hubcaps and spare wheels and lock them up," he said. "Two months ago we lost four spare tires and wheels. People are continuing to get batteries, generators — anything that's loose."

"You report the thefts and that's the end of it. The police say they can't patrol the bypass and the downtown at

the same time," Murray added. Asked what he thought about contracting with the county, he replied, "I don't think I will make a hell of a lot of difference."

But Kermit Cody, a car dealer at the opposite of Main Street, said he has usually obtained good results whenever he's called the sheriff's department to investigate a major theft.

Displaying a rather nonchalant attitude about thefts on his property, Cody said, "I've been hit ever since I've been in Marshall (20 some years). A lot of it I don't even go to the trouble to call in."

Cody said he thinks the police department, with the help of the sheriff's department, is "doing a pretty good job under the circumstances," and added, "I don't think we could do with any less protection than we now have."

"I think everybody in town would be satisfied with the police department if they would convince us that they are giving us protection and service," he said.

Town alderman Jackie Davis, who oversees the operation of the police department, said Monday night he thinks the entire matter "has been blown out of proportion," that contracting with the county "has only been mentioned once or twice."

Davis said he knows that some merchants feel "there is not enough police protection right now," but that he would have to talk with merchants and residents before he made any definite moves on the proposal.

"I'm for the people 100 percent," he said, "whatever they want, I'll try to help them get it."

Alderman John Dodson followed one theme of complying with townspeople's wishes, saying, the town should have a public meeting "to find out what they think about it."

"I would like to get officials and townspeople together on it to find out what it's going to cost and what the benefits will be," Dodson said.



R.L. Edwards, Dr. Betty Wallace, Dr. Craig Phillips and Bob Boyd

State Superintendent Visits County

Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, visited the Madison County school system Monday accompanied by Bob Boyd, assistant state superintendent for personnel relations, and Dr. Betty Wallace, director of the Western Regional Educational Center in Canton.

Phillips' tour, conducted by county superintendent Robert L. Edwards, began with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at Madison High School with the local board of education, principals, other school officials.

Speaking before the group, Phillips stressed the im-

portance of the new personnel evaluation procedures proposed by the state and the need for a one cent state sales tax increase to provide revenues for school buildings construction and community water and sewerage improvements.

Phillips visited classrooms at Madison High and at Mars Hill Elementary where he had lunch. He visited schools in Vance and Mitchell counties later in the day.

Phillips told local educators he believed they were teaching children "better than ever" despite federal funding cuts, and he warned of further cuts in the future.

Greater Ivy Wins National Award

The Greater Ivy Community of Madison County received the second place national award of Keep America Beautiful at the national Awards Luncheon Thursday in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Patsy Maynard, beautification chairman of the community which is adjacent to Mars Hill, received the award. She was accompanied to the nation's capital by Ruth Gregory, community development program chairman of the Western North Carolina Development Association.

Miss Maynard and her beautification committee had as their major projects in Greater Ivy the establishment of regular collection of roadside debris and junk cars, and broad education programs for citizens emphasizing the need of individual participation in beautification efforts.

Improvement of residences, beautification of farm buildings, church beautification projects and others were stressed in the sprawling community which has earned many honors for its community development projects over the years.

Guidelines for home improvement were given to residents of the area. Public

places were beautified with plantings of shrubs, trees, and flowers. Contests in schools, including elementary, secondary and Mars Hill College were sponsored and proved to be effective in getting volunteer participation from students.

Education of school children about litter resulted in increased awareness of the need for individual responsibility in litter control and overall improved waste handling. Pupils have taken this information home to their families and neighbors.

Keep America Beautiful sponsors its awards program to recognize superior achievement in community improvement carried out by a broad range of groups and individuals — including businesses, civic and social groups, churches, schools, government agencies and the media.

KAB President Roger W. Powers hailed Greater Ivy's program as one of the finest in the nation. "They are the example to be emulated by groups throughout the country, and indicative of the renewed interest of Americans in doing for themselves, making their

community a better place to live through their personal involvement."

KAB, founded in 1953, is a national, non-profit service organization which en-

courages responsible citizen involvement in environmental improvements.

Iron Eyes Cody, the "crying Indian," symbolizes KAB in the national news media.

Incredible (De)Feat



JEFF BALDWIN, Mars Hill freshman, suffers the "agony of defeat" after the MHC Lion football team failed to carry a 34,000 pound house across the finish line Saturday in a race against 66 champion powerlifters in Canton. The race was taped for a February segment of ABC Television's "That's Incredible." See story and photos on Page 2.

Ledford Re-elected Commissioners Chairman

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

County Commissioner James Ledford was reelected chairman of the board and Ervin Adams was elected vice chairman at the December county commissioners meeting. Both Ledford and Adams have announced they will be seeking re-election in 1982, but Commissioner Virginia Anderson remained uncommitted at the Friday night meeting.

Also, during the somewhat short meeting, Dr. Owen Fish, ESEA Title I director for the county, and Mrs. Marie Ponder were approved as appointees to the county board of health upon a recommendation of health department Director Ed Morris.

Fish and Ponder will be seeking re-election in 1982, but Commissioner Virginia Anderson remained uncommitted at the Friday night meeting.

board of health member can only serve three consecutive three-year terms (a total of nine years).

Norton said Edwards had served 18 years and 8 months, and Mrs. Corbett had served 11 years and 8 months.

In other business, the commissioners:

+ Approved a one-year \$10,000 budget for the new Mars Hill branch library and agreed to provide half that amount from county funds to

operate the facility.

+ Approved the hiring of Diane Wills as a cook's helper at the Hot Springs Day Care Center, and appointed Judy Miller to the county Day Care Board as a representative from Hot Springs.

+ Approved the hiring of Jane Thomas of Asheville as a nurse for the county's Team Project, a juvenile rehabilitation program conducted by the health department.

+ Approved a \$1,000 annual

contract with the Buncombe County Health Department for laboratory services.

+ Approved a speech therapist contract with National Speech and Hearing Services, Inc.

+ Accepted a letter of resignation from Dr. Don Anderson and approved the appointment of Dr. Bobby Jean Rice to the county North Carolina State Commission.

+ Approved renaming of a tract of land owned by Andrew

Landers Jr. from RA-2 to RB. The property, located at the intersection of Highways 213 and 25-70, will become the site of a new Wachovia Bank building, commissioners said.

+ Approved the appointment of Mrs. Vonnelle Penland to the Emergency Medical Service Committee of the Region 3 Council of Governments.

+ Approved the hiring of Ed Reese as an ambulance attendant in Marshall.