



THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

81st Year No. 7

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

THURSDAY, February 18, 1982

15c Per Copy

Laurel VFD Organized

Residents of Township 2, comprised of the Laurel communities, have laid the groundwork for establishing their own volunteer fire department, according to Donna Jones, member of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department Steering Committee formed last week.

Ms. Jones said 50 Laurel area residents showed up at an organizational meeting at Laurel Elementary School to say they did want and need a fire department in the area.

The steering committee was chosen to work on procedures for registering the Laurel VFD as a non-profit corporation with the state, she said. Members of the committee are Louie Zimmer-

man, Dennis Tweed, Jimmy Joe Shelton, John Derick Ray, Carl Shelton, Don Darrell and Ms. Jones.

Donations totalling \$1,100 in cash were collected during the meeting, and an additional \$570 was made in pledges.

Approximately 25 persons signed up for training as volunteer firemen, Ms. Jones said. Training will begin Friday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Laurel Elementary School. The first phase of training will include cardiopulmonary resuscitation and First Aid.

Myra Zeller will be in charge of this phase of training, Ms. Jones said.

NC 2000 Kickoff Saturday

The NC 2000 kickoff dinner and meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 at Madison High School on US 25-70 in Marshall.

Invitations to the dinner have been mailed to various county residents. The general session, open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m.

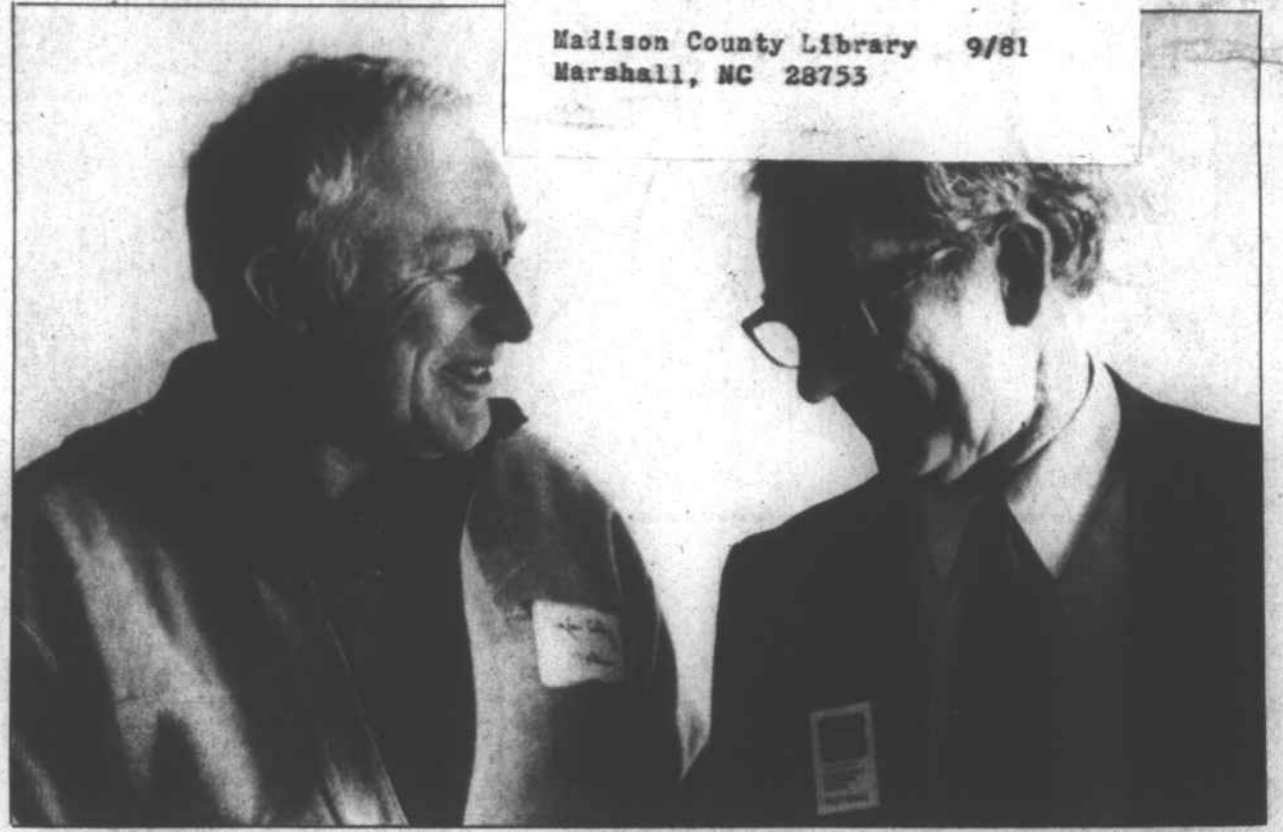
Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, chairman of the county NC 2000 Steering Committee, invites all interested residents to attend the general meeting session.

Four speakers have been lined up for the Kickoff Meeting, including Wayne McDevitt, director of the Governor's Western Office; Dr. Fred Bentley, Mars Hill College president and member of the N.C. 2000 state commission, who will speak on review of trends and forecasts; Ernest Messer, director of the Division on Aging, N.C. Department of Human Resources; and

Attorney Larry B. Leake, N.C. 2000 state commission member, who will speak on local leaders' role and local perspective on the issues.

NC 2000 was initiated by Gov. Jim Hunt last June. Its purpose is to prepare all North Carolinians to make wise decisions for the years ahead. The project will be carried out through a series of community and county meetings to build public awareness of issues facing the counties and the state, a statewide ballot to determine citizen priorities for the future, and a state conference this summer to develop recommended actions for the next 19 years.

Participants in Saturday's meeting will be asked to join one of four topic groups — People, Community, Economy or Natural Resources — to discuss issues and recommendations concerning these areas of statewide importance.



Madison County Library 9/81
Marshall, NC 28753

Photo by N. Hancock

BURLEY DAY — Madison County burley grower Doyle Cody (left) talks with Wiley DuVall, Agricultural Extension Service

agent, during a break at the annual Burley Day activities in Asheville.

Burley Growers Told To Look Ahead; Take Worldwide View

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

ASHEVILLE — Foresight and preparedness were the watchwords handed to western North Carolina burley tobacco growers in Asheville last Wednesday at the annual Burley Day meeting, held at the Great Smokies Hilton.

Nearly 400 growers attended Burley Day activities sponsored by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service of North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

"Western North Carolina burley producers have tremendous potential in production that is not being realized," Arnold R. Mitchem told tobacco farmers.

Mitchem, agricultural research and development coordinator for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., said United States burley producers must take a long-range, global view of production and shouldn't look at just single growing seasons and dollars per pound

figures when thinking about their crops.

"WE NEED LONG-RANGE planning. What is production going to be like five years from now?" he said.

Domestic burley production has improved, "but is still serious," Mitchem said. And, he noted that the U.S. produced 51 percent of 1.4 billion pounds produced worldwide in 1981.

He said foreign burley production decreased in 1981, but it has shown a steady overall increase from 1976 through last year. In the five year period, Africa showed a 75 percent increase in both production and quality, Western European production was up 30 percent, and Central America showed a 36 percent gain.

Mitchem said use of burley as "bright" leaf in tobacco blends has increased to 85 percent, but domestic burley consumption is down because of imports. He said buyers are looking at foreign burley which has the same quality of domestic leaf, but costs 50 to 60 cents less per pound.

He stressed the importance of increasing the quality of domestic production in the next five years.

Numerous Madison County growers were present to hear Roy Ammons, director of the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina, comment on the growers' association.

Wiley DuVall, county Agricultural Extension agent, served as moderator for the morning portion of the program.

Other program participants included Dr. Paul B. Shoemaker, Extension Specialist and professor of plant pathology at NCSU; D.G. Harwood, assistant director, Agricultural Extension Service, NCSU; Kenneth R. Reeves, associate Agricultural Extension agent, Buncombe County; Dr. David Burnette, Western District Chairman, AES; N.T. Plemmons, burley producer, Buncombe County; Dr. Sterling Southern, assistant professor of entomology, NCSU; and Robert L. Davis, Extension Specialist crop science, NCSU.



Photo by N. Hancock

Ponder Named To Elections Board

Z. Herbert Ponder Jr. has been appointed to the Madison County Board of Elections. He replaces John A. Hensley who resigned from the board to file his candidacy for county sheriff. Hensley later withdrew his name from the sheriff's contest.

Alex Brock, director of the state board of elections, told The News Record last week that Ponder had been appointed to the local board. Ponder was nominated for the position by state Democratic Party Chairman Russell Walker, Brock said.

The nominating process began at the Feb. 1 meeting of the Madison County Democratic Party Executive Committee when county chairman Zeno H. Ponder submitted the names of Herbert Ponder and Paula Rice as nominees to be considered by the state board.

Herbert Ponder, 36, is employed as a teacher in the vocational education department at Madison High School.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS — Johnathan Shelton (center), a student at Mars Hill Elementary School, receives a \$200 educational grant made to the school from Optimist Club President

Tom Wallin (right). Mars Hill Principal Fred Anderson looks on during the presentation ceremony at which grants were made to all six of the county's elementary schools.

Six Schools Receive Optimist Club Grants

The Madison Central Optimist Club awarded educational grants to the six county elementary schools Thursday night at a special presentation ceremony in Marshall.

The \$200 grants are to be used "for the benefit of the entire student body" at each school, Optimist President Tom Wallin said in presenting the grants.

Student and administrative representatives from Marshall, Walnut, Mars Hill, 194

Springs and Spring Creek elementary schools received the grants from Optimist Club members. Emory Wallin accepted the gift for Laurel Elementary School.

Club officials say they plan to make awarding the grants an annual event. The club currently sponsors three annual \$500 scholarships to graduates of Madison High School who are attending an institution of higher learning. The club also sponsors the

countywide Optimist International Oratorical Contest in the elementary schools as another facet of its working with youth. This year's contest will be held at Marshall Elementary School on Thursday March 11.

Sidney Harrison, principal at Walnut Elementary, told club members that the grant would be used to purchase additional library books at his school.

Second Man Sentenced In Hot Springs Wachovia Robbery

A second member of the trio charged with robbing the Hot Springs branch of Wachovia Bank last summer has been sentenced to 25 to 30 years in prison.

Judge C. Walter Allen sentenced David W. Jones, 18, to the prison term during Madison County Superior Court last week for his part in the robbery of some \$50,000.

Spencer Dale Allison, 44, was sentenced in October 1981

to 50 to 60 years in prison on robbery-kidnapping charges stemming from the event.

CHARLES WILLIAMS, 18, awaits trial in the Madison County Jail. Both Jones and Williams are from La Belle, Fla. Allison, a Madison County native, had been living in Moore Haven, Fla.

The three men were also charged with kidnapping a customer and three bank employees, but one charge of

conspiracy to commit robbery and four charges of kidnapping were dropped in exchange for a guilty plea on the charge of robbery with a dangerous weapon.

During Jones' trial Deputy Hubert Norton testified that he recognized Allison when the trio pulled up at the Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. branch office in Hot Springs on June 15 in Allison's silver 1981 Dodge Ram pickup truck.

Norton said Allison waited at the pickup while Jones and a third man went inside. He said there was a bulge under Jones' coat, and he speculated that it was the gun used in the robbery.

THREE BANK EMPLOYEES and a customer were held at gunpoint during the robbery. The four victims were locked in the bank vault when the robbers left, investigators said.

Norton said he watched as the two men, carrying plastic garbage bags, climbed into Allison's truck. Bank employees said the robbers scooped money into the bags before locking them and the customer in the vault.

Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said he was able to identify quickly and identify suspects in the robbery because his deputy had recognized Allison and took note of the license number on his truck.

Ponder brought Allison back from Florida in August, and Williams was picked up by Ponder shortly after the robbery. Jones was arrested after the robbery. Allison was sentenced in August.

Clarke For Congress Office Opens

James McClure Clarke, Democratic contender for the 11th Congressional District House seat now held by Republican Bill Hendon, opened his election committee office Monday in Asheville.

The Clarke for Congress of-

ice is located in Room 128 of the Parkway Office Building just west of Beaucatcher Tunnel at the corner of Charlotte Street and Interstate 240.

A spokesman for Clarke said the office will serve as a

communication center and distribution point for the Clarke for Congress committee.

"We would like to remind the public that this is not a campaign headquarters. We will open a campaign headquarters following the primary elections," John B. Fisher, campaign treasurer for Clarke, said.

Clarke's office will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily until March 15 when a full-time campaign staff will begin operating the office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until the November election, Fisher said.

On The Inside

Tarheel Basketball Fans Are Devoted Above And Beyond The Call Of Duty. See Tim Morrissey's Account Of Carolina Fever On Page 3.