

Town Share Would Be \$600,000

Marshall Plans Sewer Bond Vote

By JON ROSENBLUM

Marshall residents will have a chance to decide the fate of their troubled sewer system in a \$600,000 bond referendum August 26, the town council has decided.

The town recently learned it has received promises of more than \$700,000 in grants from federal and state sources for replacement of

existing pipes, addition of new lines and renovation of the treatment plant provided the town's residents approve the bond issue. The total construction is estimated at about \$1.2 million.

The council voted to have the referendum in a special meeting July 2.

Marshall mayor Lawrence Ponder

calls the bond issue "all important," and said it has been eight years in the making. He said that besides replacing all existing sewer lines, service would be extended to localities in Rollins, Cotton Mill Hill, behind Blennerhassett Island and in Paul Worley Hollows.

A public hearing will be held at town hall to inform voters about the

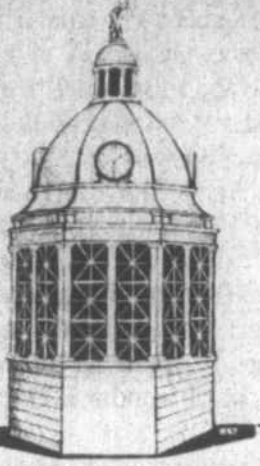
system and bond issue on July 29 (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.

A bond issue is a means of acquiring funds through the sale of bonds which yield interest for the buyer. The town already has a guarantee from the Federal Farmers Home Administration that it would purchase \$496,000 of the bonds, which would be financed at an interest rate

below the market rate.

In what the town's consultants, Butler Associates of Asheville, call "creative financing," the town has solicited and received grants from FHA (\$275,000), the Appalachian Regional Commission (\$200,000) and the state (\$289,000) for the project.

Typically, towns apply for money (Continued on Page 2)



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Innovative Marshall Primary School Ready For Opening

By JON ROSENBLUM

Between 200 and 226 Marshall and Walnut School students in grades K-3 will bid farewell to Blennerhassett Island when classes begin Aug. 11 and enter the striking new environment of Marshall Primary, a \$5 million facility recently completed next to Madison County High School.

Under the split Marshall-Walnut District, Marshall students will have a choice of attending the new school or Walnut School, while Walnut students may stay or select the new school, according to Superintendent Robert Edwards.

Although none of the students is old enough to recall the flood of Nov. 5-6, 1977 which did more than \$300,000 to the old school, they're the first direct beneficiaries of it.

More than \$250,000 in federal relief funds, and the remainder in state and local money was used to build the new school.

It features a passive solar design; sharp, modern architecture; and open classrooms which will allow teachers more flexibility in their teaching methods.

The infamous flood hit on a weekend putting the top steps of the main Marshall School building as well as its basement under French Broad waters. The one-story K-3 building received the heaviest damage, with desks and tables overturned by

churning waters.

Nancy Allen, who, at age 29, will become the youngest principal in the Madison County system when she takes over the new school, remembers "getting my feet wet" when she arrived at Marshall after the flood.

Last week a reporter found her at the new school shutting off faucets so bad memories weren't revived. "They're going to turn the water on here," she explained with a smile.

Mrs. Allen gave a tour of the building, which is split into eight classrooms — four on each side — a media center and a central office. Everything from the furniture

to the intercom system is spanking new, and each classroom has its own toilet.

Mrs. Allen said she's "real excited and can't wait to get it (school) open." She was named principal at school board meeting July 2.

Walls for book cases and supplies storage are the only dividers between the classrooms and hallways; doors are limited to exits, entrances and the principal's office.

"The people in higher education were consulted" on the classroom design, Edwards said, and "you can use team teaching in this situation, block teaching...It had many advantages."

Edwards said the school is a good alternative to a completely new K-8 facility the system had hoped for before a \$2.5 million bond referendum narrowly failed to get the approval of Madison County voters in 1978.

"I think the educational opportunity is in a better surrounding, more safe and more sanitary. It certainly creates a different environment from which the children have been in."

Of its new principal, Mrs. Allen, who won the school system's teacher of the year award for 1981, Edwards said, "she understands the system, she's well qualified and I'm looking forward to working

with her." Mrs. Allen taught seven years in the K-3 levels at Marshall.

Edwards said the last furniture will be arriving at the school "right away" and landscaping crews are completing the seeding of the school's front lawn. He said Mrs. Allen will have the choice of having playground equipment at the school.

Marshall Primary has mistakenly been tabbed "Marshall-Walnut" because the school system intended to consolidate the district with a new school by that name until the bond referendum failed, Edwards said.



WILEY DUVALL, a county Agricultural Extension Service agent, has been helping Madison County farmers keep their tobacco healthy for 17 years. Here he inspects sick plants at the Mars Hill farm of Doyle Cody. DuVall often travels more than 100 miles per day answering calls from troubled farmers.

With 'Doctor' DuVall, Prognosis Is Good For Healthy Tobacco

By JON ROSENBLUM

He's not an M.D. And, judging from the soil often covering his hands, he's not the person you'd want to open wide and say "aah" for.

But for 2,000 Madison County farmers, Wiley DuVall is the doctor on call. His patients: tobacco plants — Madison County gold.

Farmers here harvested \$13 million worth of burley last season, the most in history. DuVall, a county Agricultural Extension Service agent, is working to help them beat that mark this year.

When the 53-year-old Buncombe County native isn't on the phone fielding questions from growers (tomato, as well as tobacco growers) he's usually out in the fields and making "house calls."

In an interview last week, he said he travels about 118 miles each day visiting farmers with questions, and spends an inestimable amount of time, moving through night, on the phone. He's paid for his work

by a combination of federal, state and county funding though he's officially employed by N.C. State University.

On Thursday, the county's largest grower, Doyle Cody of Mars Hill, noticed some of his plants were shrivelling up and drying. He called the doctor.

Cody led DuVall to the patients on a portion of his 43

acres of burley. His lament was one DuVall hears frequently: "They were green and looking healthy, Wiley, then all of a sudden... Got any ideas?"

DuVall studied the plants for a moment and asked Cody how much fertilizer he was using. "That's about twice the ammonium nitrate you needed," he said, responding

to Cody's disclosure. "Something stopped that root development. A plant can't grow without roots," he said with a smile.

Like a good doctor, he had some free advice to go with his diagnosis. "Get the plants reset. You have nothing to lose but the time it takes to put them in."

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Rains Smile On Madison Crops

The "potato soaker" Madison County tobacco farmer Larry Green was hoping for last week finally arrived. And, countywide, farmers are saying the season looks good — perhaps as good as last year's record performance.

With the inch and a half to two inches of rain that has fallen in the past week, "the growth of everything right now is probably as good or better than a year ago," says county Agricultural Extension

Service agent Earl Wise.

"All this moisture can bring on blue mold, but then you've gotta have moisture to grow, too," he said. Wise said conditions are also good for corn and tomatoes, although some blossom and rot has been reported on the latter.

Last year's burley crop totalled about 7.4 million pounds, or \$13 million worth, a county record.

Emory Wallin, a Laurel tobacco grower, wasn't quite as bubbling as Wise in his

outlook, but said "it's a pretty good crop so far. I don't hardly think it's as good as last year. It's putting out a little lower than last year," he said.

Wallin said there's been "plenty" of rain. "We had two inches here one day last week. I had some hay cut two weeks and it's been wet all that time."

Eddie Williams, a Spill Corn tomato and tobacco grower said he's about ready to see the sun stay out a while.

NANCY ALLEN, a new principal at a new school — Marshall Primary — is about ready to greet students at the K-3 facility, next to

Madison County High School. The innovative structure features a passive solar design and door-less classrooms.

Ponder: \$6 Million Payroll Would Accompany Greeting Cards Plant

American Greeting Corp. of Cleveland will announce "very shortly" plans for a 400,000 square foot plant just outside the Marshall town limits which would employ "around 700 people and possibly expand beyond that," Mayor Lawrence Ponder said Monday.

"We're just waiting on the greeting cards people from Cleveland to make their big announcement," Ponder said. He said a hitch in the planning has been cleaning garbage out of a 30,000 square foot area near the building site, which is

adjacent to the Madison County landfill.

"When they finally determined the area covered by the building was close to the present landfill, they wanted so much removed," Ponder said. State Department of Transportation crews are "doing it now." He said a contractor is "burying the sewer lines now."

A director of engineering services for American Greeting would not comment on Ponder's statements other than to say there has been

"distinct progress" on the company's plans. There has been talk of a plant for the past four years, but no final accord.

Ponder said company officials have told him the plant will have about a \$6 million payroll. Other than the jobs available at the plant, "there will be additional jobs created in the community," he predicted.

Unemployment in Madison County in May was 7.1 per-

cent — already below the state average of 8.7 percent — and likely would drop with the addition of American Greeting. Micro Switch, a Mars Hill switch manufacturer is currently the county's largest employer with approximately 400 jobs, Ponder said.

Ponder said the labor supply in Madison County is one reason that site has been selected for the plant. "We probably have very low unemployment," he said.