

# Editorial

## Sewer Issue, New School Are Credits To Town, County

Somebody once said "no news is good news." Well, today there is news, and it's good.

Commendations are in order to both the Town of Marshall and Madison County — the town for its perseverance in seeking out money to fund new sewers, the county school system for its completion of the new Marshall Primary School which will get at least the youngest students off the island in middle of French Broad River.

In the first case, the town worked hard to beat what is all too familiar to American small towns: an endless wait for federal grant money. Better to get moving and look outside. When Marshall officials saw the money wasn't forthcoming, they got their heads together with Butler Associates, their Asheville consultants, and started looking.

Within a few years, the federal money had come through (more than \$400,000 worth) from unconventional sources, the Farmers Home Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission. And the state tossed in its share.

The consultants called this "creative financing" and that's just what it is.

Now five miles of new and revitalized sewer lines, as well as improvements to the pump and treatment systems await only an affirmative vote by Marshall residents on a \$600,000 bond issue Aug. 26.

The system would benefit the entire

town and protect the environment by preventing damaging pollutants from entering the French Broad through cracked pipes. (Not to mention stop the stink).

Residents should educate themselves by attending the public hearing to be scheduled before the end of the month. It already appears the sewers are due a "Yes" vote.

As for the county, Marshall Primary (K-3) looks from the outside and inside like good investment of the money available from the 1977 flood relief and other sources.

Superintendent Robert Edwards said in an interview with the News Record that the school boards in 1977 and 1978 thought the best interests of the system were in "spending bad money on good money" — a new school.

They applied structural innovations in design to save energy and promote good instruction: the sun will shine through the triangular roof at almost all daylight hours, and students will flow easily about the doorless classrooms. (We also wish an orderly bunch of K-3 students on the Marshall Primary teachers who, like most of the students, will be moving from the island).

It is unfortunate that voters didn't see fit to approve the \$2.5 million bond issue that would have taken the rest of the grades off the island, but K-3 is better than nothing.

### Madison Allocated \$665,000

## Secondary Roads

Much needed improvements to Madison County secondary roads will be undertaken soon as a result of a \$665,922 award from the North Carolina Board of Transportation approved last week.

The board, meeting at Fontana Dam approved the allocation of \$40 million for

secondary road improvements with \$7.7 million of the total going to Western North Carolina. The largest shares will go to Buncombe, Rutherford and Haywood counties. The funds represent proceeds from Gov. James B. Hunt's "Good Roads" program.

The amount of funding for each county is determined by a formula established by the state legislature giving every county a percentage of the total funds based on the unpaved secondary roads in the county in relationship to the total mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state. The total unpaved secondary system statewide contains 18,651 miles.

A total of \$3,532,829 was allocated for Division 1 which includes Madison, Buncombe, Burke, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford and Yancey counties. Buncombe will receive \$752,067, Burke \$491,513, McDowell \$352,625, Rutherford \$716,465, and Yancey \$298,900.

Local DOT officials working in conjunction with county boards of commissioners will decide which local projects will benefit from the funds based on a priority system, said State Secretary of Transportation William R. Robertson Jr. Robertson said "Without the 1981 General Assembly's passage of Gov. Hunt's Good Roads program, the \$40 million in funding to improve our secondary road system would not have been available.

The \$40 million approved for secondary roads is a \$10 million increase from last year. The total budget of \$252 million is \$80 million above last year, the result of the 1-3/8 cents increase in the gasoline tax enacted last year.

In other action at the meeting board members awarded 14 highway improvement contracts totaling \$5.4 million.

## Marshall Plans \$600,000 Sewer Bond Vote

(Continued From Page 1)

directly through the federal government. But Marshall had tried that route for six years without getting any results, said Gary McGill, a Butler partner.

Ponder said the present sewer system is "just an aggravation and a nuisance. This (a new system) gives the capacity to handle more sewage and makes it more feasible to extend sewer lines to areas not being served."

Raw sewage, he said, has occasionally poured from broken lines into the French Broad River. The Environmental Protection Agency, which investigates such incidents, "is patiently waiting to see what we do," he said. Without a new system,

"individuals will have to put in their own septic tanks because the day is soon ending when you can pollute streams and rivers."

"It's just an absolute necessity. We cannot improve our sewer facilities without this million dollars. It's just impossible," Ponder said.

He said voters will have from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to vote at the fire department on August 26, the first day legally possible after the state primaries. Voters not registered must do so by July 26, one month before the vote.

According to McGill, the Butler Associates partner and the town's consultant, the system would include five miles of lines. He said plans and

specifications have already been completed and "we're ready to go to bid."

"We anticipate going to construction immediately after the referendum passes."

McGill commended the town for seeking financing other than the federal government, which has cut back its sewage system grants.

"Many towns have been left high and dry, as Marshall was. A lot throw their arms up and say, oh heck. Marshall has taken the initiative to arrange for alternative funds."

"It's been a little unusual. I think it's a first for municipalities in this part of the state to come up with this," he said.

## 3 Charged In Brawl To Be Tried July 22

Three Hot Springs men arrested after a May 29 brawl at the Jesuit Parish there received continuances to July 22 in district court last week.

Michael Holt, 19; Dean McCarter, 26; and Tim Ramsey, 20 were all charged with assault with a deadly weapon and damage to property after they allegedly assaulted two Appalachian Trail hikers with plastic pipes

outside a hostel on the parish grounds.

The two hikers, from Oregon and California, told Frank McAloon, manager of the hostel, they were attacked at about midnight while resting there.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder said the hostel was also vandalized in the incident. All three have been released on \$1,000 bond.

## County Gets Machine To Spray Roses

The N.C. Department of Agriculture has provided a new spray machine for Multiflora Rose Control in Madison County. The machine consists of a 5 HP, 2 piston pump, 60 gallon tank and 100 feet of high pressured hose mounted on a sturdy metal trailer. It can be used anywhere that a farm tractor can get within 100 feet of the rose to be sprayed.

We also have one man available to transport the machine from farm to farm and to be in charge of the spraying. All the farmer has to do is buy the spray material and pull the machine with a tractor.

If you have need of the sprayer in the next 3 months, please call the Extension Office at 649-2411.

## Madison Dancers, Craftsmen Perform At World's Fair

Madison County was represented at the World's Fair in Knoxville Tuesday and today by various musicians, dancers and craftsmen from throughout the county.

Brad Howarth of the Nantahala Outdoor Center in

Hot Springs said the previous two appearances at the fair went well and that he hopes groups going this month to perform at the North Carolina Exhibit will enjoy the fair.

Tuesday's performers included the Walnut

Ridgerunners clogging team; Evelyn White, musician; the Earth Guild, spinning and weaving demonstration; Kattie and Billy Cunningham, musicians; and Bradley Franklin, craftsman.

Groups and individuals

representing the county at the fair today are the Marshall Hillbilly Cloggers; Loyd Fish, mountain craftsman and toymaker; Bradley Franklin; and Too Hot to Cook Women's String Band.

Howarth said the county

assistance and Mars Hill College's cooperation in providing transportation proved invaluable.

Madison County has one more day, Aug. 31, to be represented at the N.C. Exhibit.

## Heard And Seen

BY POP STORY

### MARS HILL BROTHERS ENJOY "TOUR"

Although the News-Record has been located in its present site between Shady Side Florists and Bowman Hardware on Main Street for over a year, people still come into my printing office (Story Printing Co.) where The News-Record was formerly located. Almost daily someone will come in to subscribe or renew their subscription, or maybe bring in a news article for publication. Some say they didn't know about the change while others say they are so use to coming in here that they "forget" that I have retired from newspapering except for writing this column. Be that as it may, I still enjoy seeing and talking with them.

Such was the case last Wednesday when Dewey Rice of Route 1, Mars Hill, and his brother, Horace, also of Route 1, Mars Hill, came in. When I told them about the newspaper's present location, they remarked that they had always connected the News-Record with the name Story (my father and me) and perhaps always will. They said they had been subscribers since 1924 when the paper was located at the intersection of Roberts Hill Road and US 25-70. When they came in Wednesday morning I was operating the Linotype and I invited them to see how type was set. They were so interested in watching the machine work that I showed them, step-by-step, how the Linotype made slugs. I also showed them the job presses, the printing press, the various type cases, the electric melting pot, and other phases used in the making of a newspaper and commercial printing.

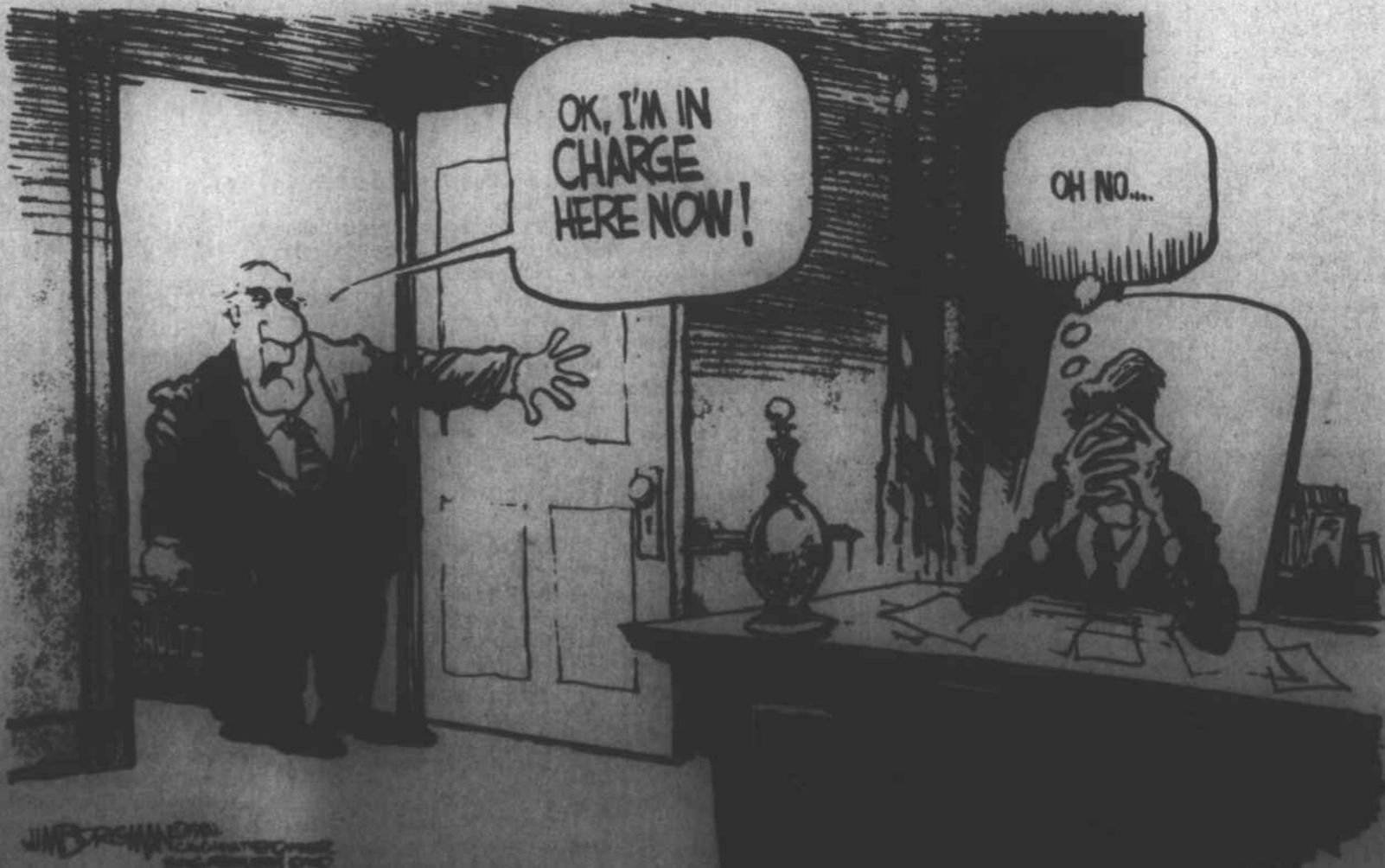
I've never had more interested visitors than the Rice brothers. I invited them to come back when the job presses were running and they were most appreciative of the "tour" and said they hoped to return. I hope they do.

### WAS HIGH-SPEED CHASE WISE

Last Wednesday's account of the wild high-speed chase in Asheville which involved a platoon of law enforcement officers riding in a dozen cars, some of them unmarked, reminded me of the television show, Dukes of Hazzard. The officers were chasing a woman suspect who was driving a rented van. She was suspected of issuing two bad checks to the tune of a little more than \$300. The chase started near the Civic Center. It strung out across the Smoky Park Bridge, almost to West Asheville, then back east across the downtown area and up Sunset Mountain where the officers were finally able to stop the van. Fortunately, no innocent bystanders were injured but much damage was done. It made an interesting newspaper story, but I wonder if the chase was wise]

### A VISIT TO MADISON MANOR

On Tuesday of last week I visited the Madison Manor Nursing Center for the first time in several weeks. It was nice seeing and talking to several of my friends including: Carol "Little Fox" Gibson, Margaret, Betty, Ruth, Horace Higgings, "Doogan" Treadway and others. I was sorry that Janie Franklin and David George were not there but I, with Judson Edwards and Carroll Radford, only stayed a few minutes. I hope to get back up there soon.



## THE NEWS RECORD

ESTABLISHED 1901 • NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS

Box 369 • Marshall, N. C. 28753 • Phone: (704) 649-2741

G. NICHOLAS HANCOCK, Editor

JEAN BLANKENSHIP, Office Mgr.

JAMES I. STORY, Columnist

Published Weekly By The Madison County Publishing Company, Inc., USPS 388-440, Second Class Postage Paid at Marshall, N.C. 28753, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription Rates: In Madison and Buncombe Counties — 1 Year \$5.50; 6 Months \$4.25; Outside Madison and Buncombe Counties — 1 Year \$8.75; 6 Months \$7.00. N.C. Residents Add 4% Sales Tax.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The News Record, P.O. Box 369, Marshall, N.C. 28753

MEMBER:

North Carolina Press Association

National Newspaper Association