

By WALTER SMITH
Two special guests, Dr. Rebecca Clemenzi and Dr. David Deci (right), were introduced at last week's (Aug. 3 ) meeting of the Madison County Medical Society by Dr. Otis Duck (center) of Mars Hill, long-time Mars Hill physician and
president of the Society. Dr, Deci, a third-year president of the Society. Dr. Deci, a third-year
resident in the Family Practice Program of the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) in Asheville, spoke to the members of the county Society on the diagnosis and manage ment of Hepatitis B. "It was an excellent presentation," said Dr. Duck, "of very recent developments in this important area of medicine." Dr. Deci is scheduled to join Dr. Duck in family practice at the Community Medical Center in Mars Hill when he completes his current residency next July.

Dr. Clemenzi is also a third-year resident in the MAHEC Family Practice Program. She and Dr. Deci were classmates in medical school at the University of Florida, where they received their
M.D. degrees in 1980. She is practicing with Dr. M.D. degrees in 1980. She is practicing with Dr. Duck at the Community Medical Center in Mars Hill during August

The Madison County Medical Society includes all of the medical doctors within the county as regular members and the dentists as affiliate members. Two doctors of veterinary medicine tice this year, Dr. Rex Allen, Jr. and Dr. Larry Frost, have been invited to join the Society as affiliate members.

## Beat The Heat

Hot summer weather is a potential health hazard for the elderly. Heat can place a dangerous strain on the older body, espcially the heart. Older adults are very vulnerable to heat stroke, which can be fatal.

Elderly citizens most vulnerable to heat related problems are those with a weak or damaged heart, hypertension, diabetes, circulation problems, excess weight, or those who have suffered a stroke. Other factors that affect a person's reaction to heat are infection or fever, diarrhea, drinking and skin diseases or sunburn which may reduce sweating that helps cool the body.

Many prescription drugs can also make a person much more vulnerable to the heat. It is advisable to ask the physician who prescribes medication how heat exposure will affect the body. Medication for high blood pressure, ner vousness, depression, poor circulation or sleeping
problems can cause complications and even death problems can cause complications and even death
when the patient is exposed to various degrees of heat.

Warning signs in your body take the form of physical and mental changes. Most people feel hot, uncomfortable, and notice a lack of energy or loss of appetite during hot weather. These are mild danger signs. More serious signs are dizziness, rapid heartbeat, diarrhea, nausea, throbbing headache, dry skin, chest pain, weakness, mental changes, breathing problems, vomiting and cramps. Older individuals should pay attention to these early warning signs of heat illness because heat stress can be fatal.

There are facts about heat that everyone should know. Temperatures above 90 degrees can be very dangerous, particularly when the humidi-
ty is also high. Crowded living conditions increase this danger. A sudden increase in temperature can cause problems because the body is unprepared for the strain. People should take steps to lower their body Heat stress can cause many medical problems including heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and heart more comfortable, prevent illness, and perhaps The best way to keep cool is to observe a few safety rules such as staying in cool surroundings
that have fans or air conditioning. Air movement reduces heat stress by helping to lower extra body cause a rise in body heat by blowing hot air on the


