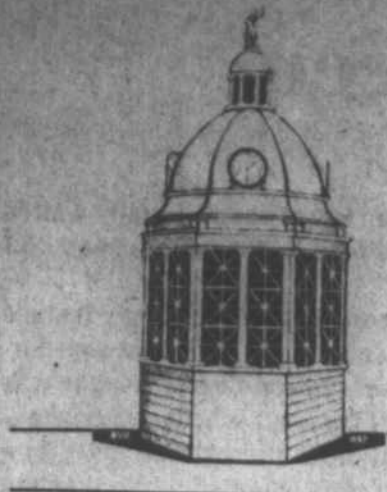


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TVA Program Will Assist Marshall

The town of Marshall will be receiving a lift in the next few months, courtesy of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Town officials were notified this week that the TVA has approved Marshall's application for assistance under the authorities Town Life Program. The approval of the application is the first step in what will be a six-month project aimed at revitalizing

the downtown business area.

The next step in the project will be a public meeting some time in September. At the meeting, town officials and private citizens will sit down with TVA officials to discuss what direction the project will take.

According to John Smalling, a city planner for the TVA who will assist in the project, "The revitalization pro-

gram can become almost anything the people of Marshall want it to be." Smalling said the TVA will render assistance in areas such as traffic pattern adjustment, storefront renovations and beautifications. Such assistance will be made available to both the town's officials and to private sector businessmen.

The TVA assistance will be in the form of

technical advice regarding revitalization plans. The TVA will not provide any funds to carry out the improvements, but the technical assistance will help to keep down costs of any improvements. TVA will make its resources of experts in various fields available to the town. Included will be architects, economists, draftsmen, landscape artists and other professionals.

While TVA will assist both the town and private citizens in formulating a revitalization program which the town can afford, it will not provide blueprints for any of the proposed improvements. Instead, the TVA planners will provide concept drawings of many projected improvements.

One of the next steps the town must take will be to create a committee of town officials and

with the TVA staff. Smalling warns that the committee members can look forward to many hours of hard private citizens to work in close cooperation work in the months ahead. He said, "We are very frank with the committees we work with. We tell them, 'We will work as hard as you do! This sort of a project demands a lot of time and dedication, but we think the end results are

worth the effort!'"

Renovation of vacant and abandoned buildings are a part of the Town Lift program. Smalling explained, "We work with towns to provide for stimulating economic development. Part of this includes providing property owners with a package of economic incentives for restoring abandoned and vacant properties."

Smalling, who has visited the town several (Continued on Page 4)

Mars Hill Farm Family Honored

Mars Hill farmers Doyle and Judy Cody were honored by the Tennessee Valley Association of Test Demonstration Farm Families during a recent meeting in Brevard.

The association is a seven-state organization. Others recognized included three families from Tennessee, and one each from North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia and Mississippi.

Doyle Cody and his wife, Judy, operate a 130-acre farm outside Mars Hill. This season, they have 43 acres of tobacco, mostly burley. The farm has five barns to store the crop.

The Codys have conducted many demonstrations and on-farm test projects with both the Tennessee Valley Authority

and the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, including tobacco fertilization and grass experiments.

The family has worked the Mars Hill farm for 30 years, ever since they were married following his discharge from the service. Before entering farming, Cody graduated from Mars Hill College and attended Western Carolina University. Judy Cody is also a Mars Hill graduate. She works in Marshall with the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Last year, the Codys cooperated with the TVA on the construction of an experimental tobacco barn. The design of the structure allows farmers to fill the barn using a front-end loader instead of by

hand. The barn was a success, making it possible for a small tobacco farmer with just a few acres to do all the work by himself.

Using the old method of putting up tobacco, the crop is handled about nine times. Using the system innovated at the Cody farm, the tobacco need only be handled four times.

Among the five barns on the farm is one which can store up to 32 acres of tobacco. This year, Cody plans to put up 26 acres of his burley crop in the huge barn.

Much of the farm's acreage is in pasture. The Codys were also dairy farmers for 24 years before selling off the herd to increase tobacco production. Cody says his income

has increased since getting out of the dairy business, but he plans to return to dairy farming again in the future.

The Cody farm is one of the largest tobacco farms in Madison County, with an average yield of between 2,200 and 2,400 pounds per acre. He expects to begin cutting his crop sometime this week, depending on weather conditions. During the harvesting season, the farm provides work for up to 15 workers.

Cody credits much of his operation's success on modern record-keeping practices. He uses a private computerized service to keep track of his business transactions. The company, General Business Services, has a computer in Washington which analyses data from the farm to detect

weaknesses in the farm's operation. The firm has a representative in Asheville who works closely with Cody.

The Codys report that they have no problem with disease this year because of having sprayed his fields with Ridomil prior to transplanting. This year's rains and good growing conditions have produced an excellent burley crop.

The other North Carolina award winner is a former Madison County resident, Charlie Rice. Rice currently works a farm in Yancey County. He was cited for rehabilitating a 100-acre briar patch and copperhead lair on the Pensacola Road near Burnsville. He has worked with the TVA in project involving corn and beef cattle.



DOYLE AND JUDY CODY

Photo by Bob Koenig

Weather Fleck No Problem

By WILEY DUVALL
Agricultural Extension Agent

During the past few weeks, farmers have been disturbed by leaf spotting on their tobacco. Many farmers are calling this condition "rust" or wildfire. In most cases, it is neither of these. In practically all cases that I have observed, it has been weather fleck.

Weather fleck is not an infectious disease and there is no treatment for it. It is caused by a very common air pollutant called ozone. Ozone can be found in very high concentrations during certain weather conditions. It may be brought to the earth's surface

by vertical winds, or it may form from electrical discharges such as lightning during thunderstorms.

Tons of incompletely burned hydrocarbons and nitrogen dioxide may be released daily into the atmosphere by automobile exhausts and factory discharges. In the presence of sunlight, the nitrogen dioxide reacts with atmospheric oxygen and forms ozone and nitric oxide. Normally, these fumes are swept up by air currents from the earth's surface and rise into the cooler air above, where

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Bill Hendon

Hendon Opposes Tax Increase

North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon told area tobacco growers on Monday that he will oppose the tax increase bill presently before the Congress. The tobacco growers attended a meeting the congressman hosted at the University of North Carolina at Asheville to explain details of the recently enacted No-Net Cost Tobacco Act of 1982.

The act, which passed both houses of Congress by a wide margin, was signed into law by President Reagan on July 20. The law amends the Agricultural Act of 1949 and the Agricultural Adjustment

Act of 1938 as they relate to the price support program for all kinds of quota programs for certain kinds of tobacco.

Hendon supported the act, saying, "It will help us to preserve the tobacco program in years ahead."

The new law establishes a fund, supported by contributions made by producers, to achieve the operation of the tobacco price support program at no net cost to taxpayers. Common administrative costs of the program will continue to be paid by taxpayers.

The meeting was also to

have featured U.S. Reps. William C. Wampler of Virginia and Larry Hopkins of Kentucky. They were unable to attend, Hendon explained, because of the tax increase bill now pending before the congress. Both men are members of the House Agriculture Committee.

That tax bill was on the minds of many of the tobacco farmers in the audience.

Many of the questions they asked related directly to the tax package. One provision currently being considered would double the federal tax on a pack of cigarettes from

eight to 16 cents.

Hendon promised the farmers that he would oppose the tax package. Over the weekend, President Reagan, campaigning for the bill, invited many members of the House to Camp David in an attempt to win their support for the bill. Hendon was not invited, he explained, "Because they know they are wasting their time with me."

Hendon said, "I'm opposed to raising any taxes in a recessionary period as we are now in. The tobacco tax increase would deal a great hardship to the people of North Carolina." (Continued on Page 4)

Crash Kills Marshall Man

A 27-year old Marshall resident died Sunday in a single-car accident.

Mitchell Cleve Cantrell of Rt. 3 Marshall was killed when he was thrown from his car on Shelton Laurel Rd. about 1:35 p.m. Highway Patrol trooper A.L. Cooper said he believed that Cantrell was killed instantly. County medical examiner Dr. Otis Duck said that no autopsy was performed in the county.

According to the Highway Patrol report, Cantrell was driving east on Shelton Laurel Rd., some 31 miles north of Marshall when the car ran off the left side of the road and struck a ditch bank. It is believed that the car struck a guard rail on the right side of the road before leaving the road. There were no eyewitnesses to the accident.

The impact of the crash threw Cantrell from the vehicle.



THE GREATER IVY YOUTH GROUP pose with some of the bird houses they constructed recently. From left they are Nancy Ray, Chris Maney and Tammie Young.

Front row: Jeff Tilson, Tim Ray, Bill Tilson and Scott Norton. Not shown are Susan Eastman, Michael Carter and Laura Ledford.

Youth Group Works To Save Bluebirds

By TAMMIE YOUNG

The Eastern Bluebird is in danger of extinction and a group of youngsters in the Greater Ivy community are doing their part to save the birds.

The Greater Ivy Youth Group voted to build bird houses as their second major project of the year. Earlier, the group constructed planters for use at roadside mailboxes to assist the community beautification effort.

One of the group parents, Fred Norton, contributed some of the lumber needed for the project. Phil-Co Hardware of Mars Hill also contributed material for the project.

The houses were then cut by parents Tommy Tilson and Tommy Ray. Another of the parents, Margo Ray, assembled the pieces of wood into kits. Fred and Helen Morton next cut holes to allow the birds to get inside the houses.

The Youth Group met on Saturday, July 17 at the Greater Ivy Community Center to assemble the houses. Members of the group assembling the bird shelters were Nancy Ray, Chris Maney, Jeff Tilson, Tim Ray, Bill Tilson, Scott Norton, Susan Eastman, Michael Carter, Laura Ledford and reporter, Robert Murray also

helped the group construct the houses.

After the houses were completed, the group held a picnic lunch. Grace Ray organized the picnic with help from Helen Norton, Margo Tilson and Aida Jean Young.

The group is now selling the houses for \$6 each.

In order to further help save the bluebirds from extinction, the Greater Ivy Youth Group has also joined the North American Bluebird Society, an organization interested in preventing the extinction of these beautiful feathered creatures.