

THE NEWS

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Appendix Removed

Governor Hunt Is Recuperating

North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt was reported to be resting comfortably in a Raleigh hospital Monday following surgery to remove his appendix. The 45-year-old governor was taken to Wake Medical Center Thursday afternoon after fainting dur-

ing a speech.

Doctors attending to Hunt originally diagnosed gallstones as the problem. On Friday, it was discovered that Hunt's appendix was inflamed and doctors removed it.

Dr. Larry Tyree, the governor's personal physician, said

that the governor also has gallstones and that surgery to remove the gall bladder would be needed sometime within the year.

Hunt is expected to remain in the hospital for several days. Doctors have ordered the governor to remain in bed for up to two weeks before returning to his full-time duties. Gary Pearce, an aide to the governor, said that all travel for the next ten days has been cancelled and that Hunt will resume work from the governor's mansion in Raleigh when his condition permits.

Burley Quotas Are Cut

The national marketing quota for the 1983 burley tobacco crop will be 647 million pounds, five percent less than for 1982, according to Everett Rank, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

When adjustments for over and undermarketings are taken into consideration, effective farm quotas for 1983 are expected to total 677 million pounds, about 13 percent less than last year, he said.

Rank said a mail referen-

dum of growers will be held Feb. 28-March 3 to decide whether marketing quotas will be in effect on the next three crops of burley tobacco. Quotas were last proclaimed on the 1980-82 crops and were approved by a 99 percent majority, Rank said.

Burley referendum ballots will be mailed to producers from the Madison County ASCS Office on Feb. 25 and must be returned or post marked by March 3. If a producer eligible to vote does not receive a ballot, he may request one at the county office.

The ballots will be counted

on March 8 and the Secretary of Agriculture will announce the final results. Following the announcement lease and transfer of 1983 quotas can be approved. Many of farmers have been inquiring about when they can lease. The Madison ASCS office suggests a date some where around the middle of March.

W.B. Zink, Executive Director for the Madison ASCS also encourages farmers who have not returned their 1982 marketing cards to do so as soon as possible. The office must reconcile the entries on these marketing cards with

data on a print-out of producer marketings furnished by the warehouses. Failure to return a card can result in a reduction of the farm quota the following crop year, unless he can show satisfactory proof of his entire marketings in some other manner. Mr. Zink concluded by saying that the notices of quota will also be mailed to producers sometime around Feb. 25 and if there are any questions about the quota shown on the notice to contact the office during office hours which are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Winter Storm Passes Through

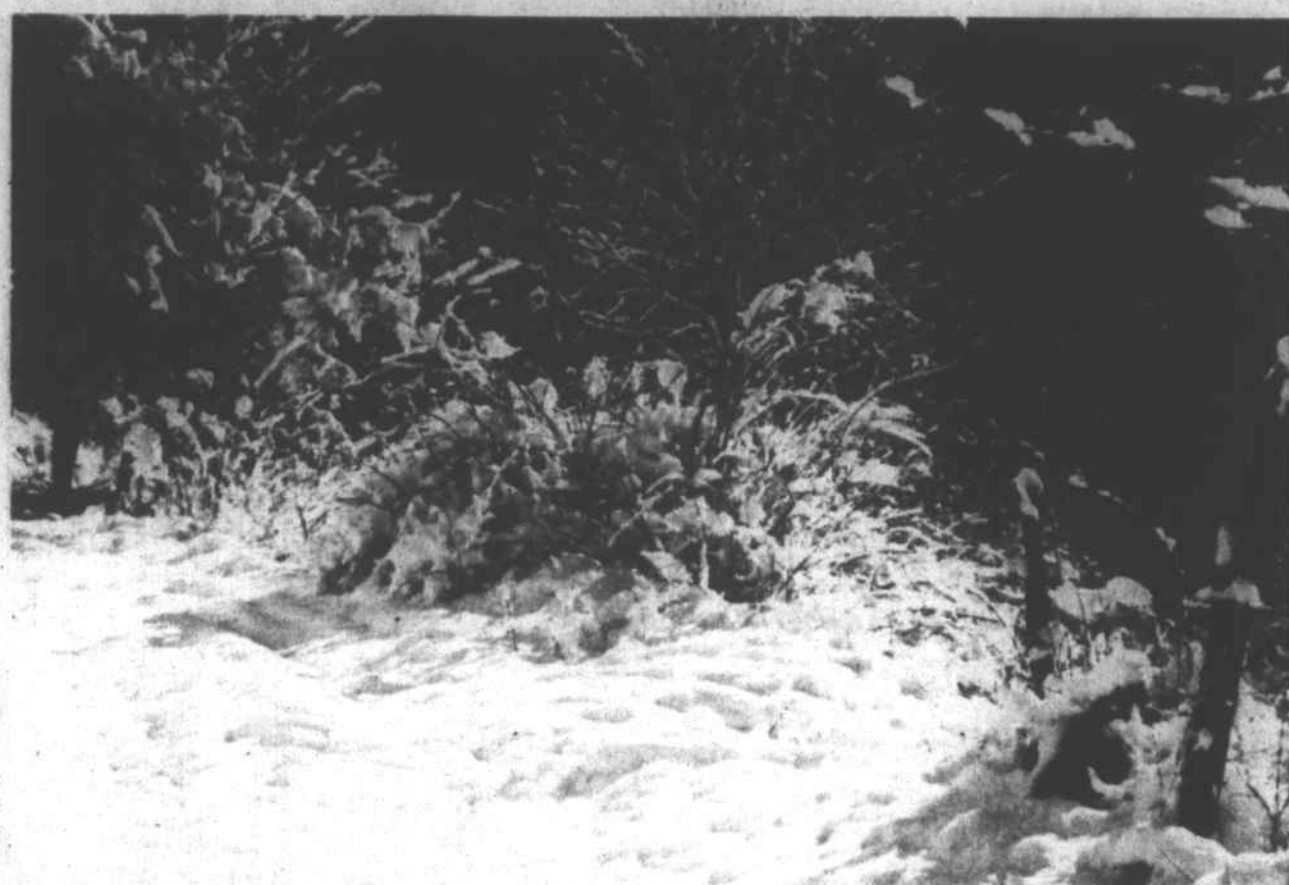


Photo by Ken Parker

SCENES like this one in Spring Creek were common throughout the county last week. The winter storm which paralyzed the Nor-

theast left 4-6 inches of snow in Madison County. Spring-like temperatures on Monday melted the remaining snow away.

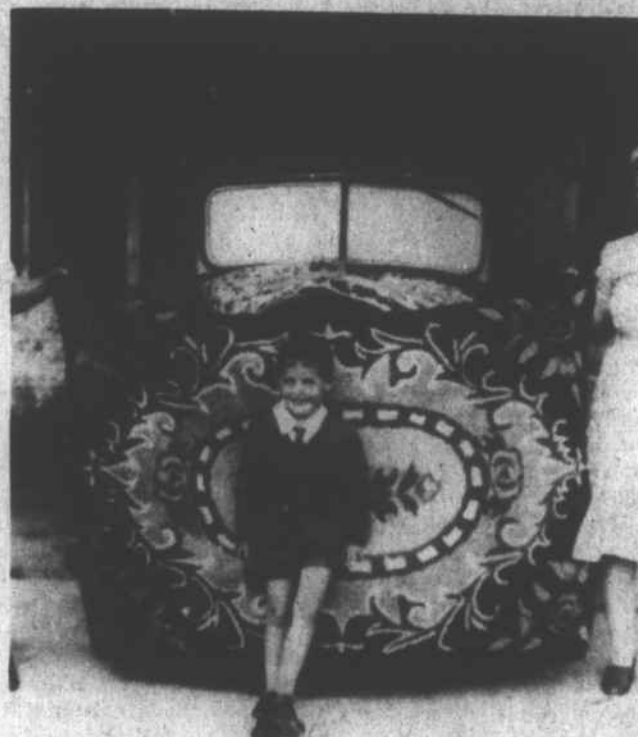
Madison County Was Once Rugmaking Center

By PAULINE B. CHEEK

In the mid-1930's Mars Hill, with a population of 500 and a college enrollment of 544, was considered the center of the hand-hooked rug industry for which Southern Appalachia had become famous. The Madison Rug Shop, located at the junction of Athletic Street and the Marshall Highway, was designated as "perhaps the largest makers of handmade rugs in the country."

Although no longer prominent as a source of income, and never so popular a pastime as quilting, rug-hooking continues to engage the attention of Madison County craftspeople. Mrs. Jackie Bailey, for example, has a rug frame in which she makes a dozen hotpads at a time. Mrs. Marion Anderson is in demand at festivals and craft fairs to demonstrate the art of rug-hooking, and Mrs. Inez Edwards, who used rug money to buy her high school ring in 1938, still enjoys making rugs when she has the time.

The tool used by these ladies is a shuttle-type "turfing machine" with which they loop rug yarn through burlap to make a tuft on the underneath, or right side of the carpet. Many people, however, recall earlier times when rugs



JAKE GRIGG stands in front of one of the hand hooked rugs that was made in Madison County during the 1940's.

were hooked right-side-up from strips of discarded wool fabric. The tool for these rugs resembled a bent crochet hook with a wooden handle. With the ingenuity and resourcefulness characteristic of craftspeople, rug-hookers have experimented with various materials, including stocking loops from hosiery mills and other waste from textile mills, much of which had to be dyed and cut into strips.

Through the years, certain names have come to be associated with this craft. Among the early makers in Mars Hill were Mrs. Ollie Ray, who sold to tourists passing her home on the old road to Johnson City; Mrs. John Smith, who made nursery-rhyme rugs for Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Jr.; Mrs. Ned Anderson, whose designs were selected for use in the White House, and Mrs. Stella Carter, noted for the size of some of her rugs.

One of the chief families connected with rug-hooking is that of J.F. Buckner who, with his daughter Verda, operated Madison Rug Shop from about 1932 until 1942. Another daughter, Mrs. Delitha Phillips, stenciled original designs on burlap to be hooked by the men and women employed there. Both his grandson, Roscoe Phillips, and his son-in-law,

Raleigh English, supplied the shop with materials from hosiery mills and hauled rugs to the depot for shipment to department stores like Marshall Field and Co. in New York. During the 1940's a third daughter, Mrs. Belvia Ramsey, operated a cottage industry, delivering supplies to over 200 families in their homes and returning to pick up the finished rugs.

By the 1940's, there were several rug dealers in Asheville, including the New York-based Floor Coverings and Treasure Chest. Boyd Hill, who drove a two-ton truck for Treasure Chest, says that he hauled three to four thousand square feet of rugs a week. Ed Ball, an independent rug broker, says that at the peak he was handling 8,000 rugs a week, taking them to Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia for sale at roadside stands and to department stores. Another independent rug dealer in Greater Ivy, Oscar Young, opened gift shops for the sale of rugs at Ridgecrest and near Old Fort.

These men testify to the success of rug-hooking as an industry. For the story of rug-hooking from a different perspective, one needs only to talk to the hundreds of people who know

(Continued on Page 5)

Marshall Students Brush Up On Good Dental Care



SECOND GRADERS at Marshall Primary brush their teeth after lunch each day.

Robert L. Edwards, this contest," said Mrs. Nancy Superintendent of the Madison County Schools, is engaged in some friendly competition this month. He is helping Marshall Primary School earn some extra points for the first annual statewide Children's Dental Health contest which is going on during the month of February.

Students and teachers in participating schools are carrying out a variety of dental health activities to earn points for competition. Principals Society, the Dental Health may add points to their schools' overall scores by actively participating. Superintendents and administrators also can give a boost to the winning school in their area by participating in the suggested activities throughout February. "We're really excited about

(Continued on Page 5)

Spring Creek Scouts Honored



Photo by Ken Parker

CUB SCOUT PACK 525 of Spring Creek has been selected for the National Honor Award. Members of the pack include Mark Allen, Brady Askew, Bobby Balding, Jason Goforth, Chris McElroy,

Kevin Meadows, Bobby Payne, Kenny Church, Travis Clark, Jason Cogdill, John Dagla, Edward Payne, Matthew Ramey, Johnny Rathbone, Thomas Rathbone and David Rice.

Cub Scout pack 525 of Spring Creek has been selected for the National Honor Award. The award is the second national honor the troop has received in its first year of operation. The troop was presented with the National Summertime Award earlier for its summer program.

In order to receive the national award, the entire pack completed seven of ten requirements. Each Cub Scout advanced one rank, contributed service to the community as part of the requirements.

The Spring Creek Cub Scout pack is chartered by the Spring Creek Elementary School. Larry Plemmons is the pack's coordinator. Carroll Askew is the Cubmaster, assisted by Ted Totten. Pat Totten serves as the Pack leader, assisted by Clara Askew, Peggy Balding, Mary Ellen Balding, Cogdill and Brian Allen. James Cogdill serves as the Den Chief.