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Board Of Education Plans Marshall Student Move

By ROBERT KOENIG
Marshall Elementary School students will be moving into the building which formerly housed the primary grades, according to a plan announced by the school's principal, Fred Haynie, at last Wednesday's meeting of the Madison County Board of Education.

Haynie said work on the building's new restrooms is nearly finished. When the final touches are complete, Haynie proposed moving fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes currently housed on the second floor of the school's main building into the former primary building.

The principal said that the move would reduce the hazard of fire in the main building and would save the cost of heating the building in winter months.

Haynie also outlined a plan for converting space in the basement of the gymnasium into classrooms. The rooms are currently empty. The school's

library would remain on the second floor because it is the only room in the school suited for use as a library.

No date for the transfer of students into the former primary building was set.

The school board voted to reject a request from the French Broad Electric Membership Cooperative. The co-op had asked for permission to dump rock from the Capitola Dam project on the eastern end of Blannerhassett Island.

The Board of Education owns the 4.9 acres on the east end of the island. The Town of Marshall, which owns the remaining 6.3 acres, has given FBEMC permission to deposit the rock on the western end of the island. The rock will come from blasting necessary for the construction of the power plant at the dam site.

The board visited the site before considering the request. Board member Ed Gentry Proposed a motion that the

board deny the request, substituting instead property adjacent to Madison High School. The board unanimously approved the motion.

A spokesman for FBEMC said on Thursday the dumping site may not be needed and that denial of the site on the island would not delay the dam project.

In other actions taken by the board, school superintendent Robert Edwards was ordered to look into the possibility of purchasing trailers for use as classrooms should the move from the present facilities on Blannerhassett Island become necessary. The board also approved allowing Edwards two days leave to serve on a committee that will evaluate the Catawba County school system.

Edwards said preliminary indications are that the Madison County teacher allotment for the 1983-84 school year will be reduced by four

positions. Board Chairman Bobby Ponder expressed hope that retirements would eliminate the need to terminate any teachers currently employed by the school system.

Edwards presented board members a working model of the 1983-84 budget proposal. They will consider the proposed budget before submitting it to the county commissioners.

Board members visited Laurel Elementary School and Madison High School during last week's session, inspecting Laurel school facilities and erosion problems at Madison High School. The erosion is occurring on the north end of the football practice field on US 25-70 and poses no threat to the school building. The board will consult the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

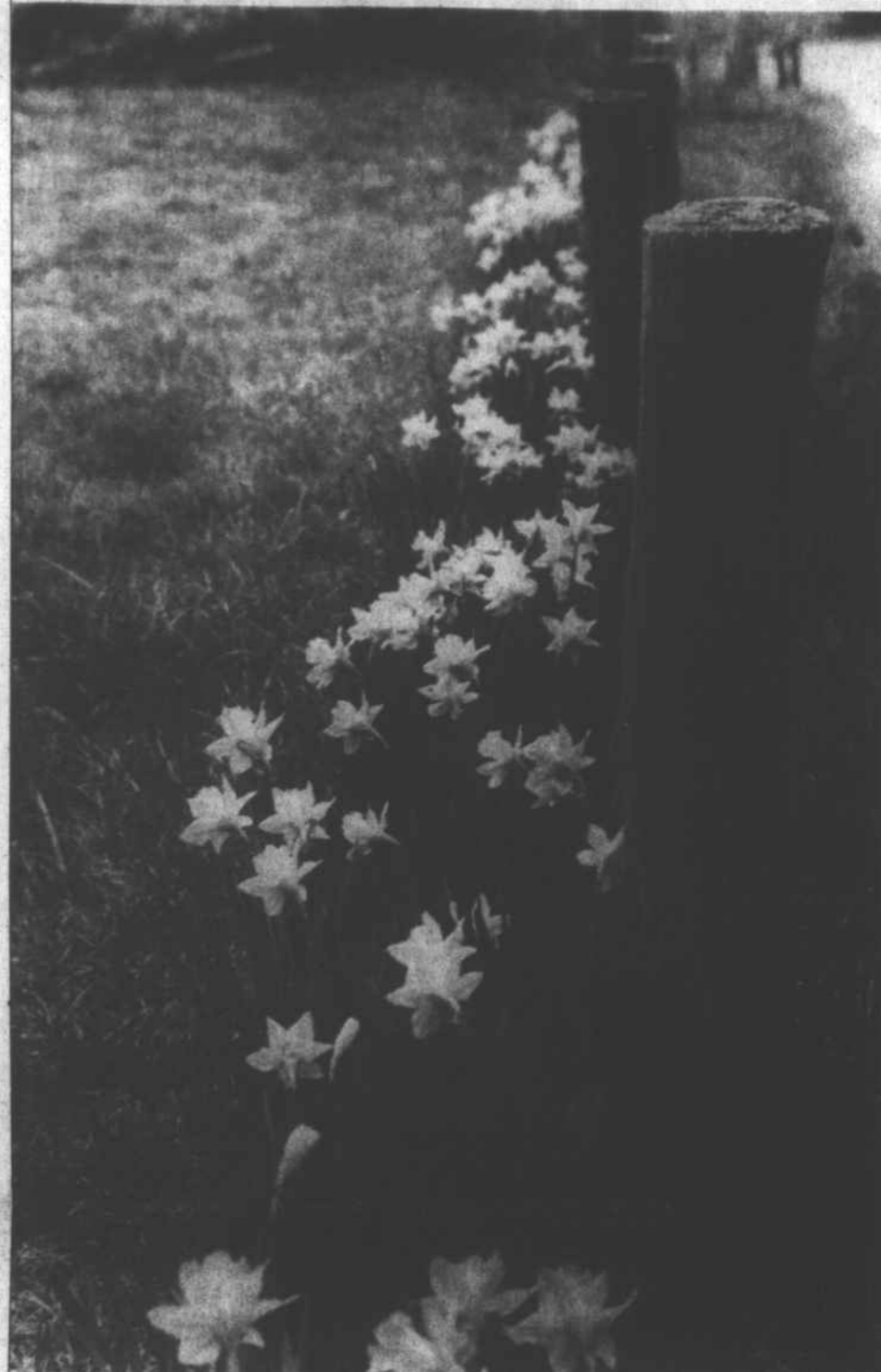
Finance Officer Jan Franklin reported that budget cuts ordered on the state level are causing problems for the

school system. Because of shortfalls in anticipated revenues, Gov. Jim Hunt has ordered school boards throughout the state to cut their expenditures by two percent. Hunt also ordered other state funded agencies to make cuts amounting to six percent of their state budgets.

Franklin explained that, because the cut in state funds cannot be made in the area of teacher's salaries, the actual cuts amounts to closer to 25% of the systems operating budget. Madison County's cut will amount to approximately \$200,000 for the current school year. She told the board, "We've already got the money obligated. I don't see how they can take it back. I'm sure they're trying to keep control of the situation, but I'm afraid the problem is going to be bad again next year." She reported that 98 percent of Madison County's state funds

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Spring Arrives



DAFFODILS signal the coming of home of Mrs. Emmet Plemons. spring at the Walnut Creek Road

GOP Convention Names Phillips County Chairman

Bob Phillips of Mars Hill was elected chairman of the Madison County Republican Party at its county convention Saturday in Marshall.

Fewer than a dozen registered voters attended the convention in the county courthouse. Dr. Larry Stern of Mars Hill chaired the convention which also elected members of the county executive committee and delegates and alternates to the state convention.

Before selection of the delegates, the convention heard from Ken Port of Jackson County, a field representative of the state GOP for the 11th Congressional District.

Port told the convention, "I really believe that North Carolina can go Republican in 1984. We have to start organizing now. We need folks who are active and can get the vote out. I want Madison County to have an active part in re-electing Senator Helms next year."

Dr. Stern congratulated Walnut Republicans for their turnout in last November's election. A report released at the convention showed that 75 percent of Walnut's registered Republicans cast ballots in the election. County-wide, 1,592 of Madison County's

registered Republicans cast ballots in the election for a 60 percent adjusted participation rate.

Following Port's remarks the convention caucused to choose delegates and alternates to represent the county in the district and state Republican conventions.

When the convention returned to session, a vote was taken on a slate of 12 delegates and 12 alternates. Joe Fowler, Dewey Griffey, Jr., Frank Massey, Bruce Briggs, Bob Phillips, Roger Swann, James Dedrick Brown, Don Hall, Larry Stern, C.N. Willis, Bill Tisdale and Jane Briggs were named as delegates to the conventions.

Named as alternates were: Bill Briggs, Gayle Briggs, Marian Tisdale, Jeanette Nix, Michael Chapman, Curtis Roberts, Harry Payne, Perry Willis, Buster Norton, Mollie Brown, Howard Riddle and Bob Chandler.

The district convention is scheduled for May 16 in Hendersonville. The state Republican convention will be held May 19-21 in Raleigh.

The convention also selected members to serve on the county executive committee.

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Mars Hill Student Killed

A Mars Hill College student was killed in an early morning car wreck March 2 on U.S. 19-23 near the Weaverville bypass. William Scott Merrill, 18, of Brevard was killed when the 1974 Capri he was driving ran off the northbound lane of U.S. 19-23 and dropped 60 feet into a creek according to a report from the N.C. Highway Patrol.

A passenger in the car, Kimberly Doris Worthington of Statesville, was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. Worthington, a freshman at Mars Hill College, suffered multiple fractures in the wreck and underwent surgery. She was listed in satisfactory condition on Monday morning.

Her mother reported on Thursday that she and Merrill were returning to the Mars Hill campus from Asheville when the accident occurred. She said that they were returning from a party and that Miss Worthington was asleep when the car ran off the road.

A witness told State Trooper D.T. Drake that they saw Merrill's car veer into the southbound lane of U.S. 19-23 before it returned to the median, went between two bridges and plunged into the creek below. The witness reported that the car was traveling at a high rate of speed.

\$20,000 For Planning

County To Seek Grant

The Madison County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to apply for a \$20,000 grant for industrial planning at their monthly meeting Friday night. The grant, from Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds, will be used to attract new industry to the county. The commissioners approved the resolution at the suggestion of Sam Parker, director of the Madison County Housing Authority.

If approved, the funds will be used to obtain core samples of the county's industrial site and provide other information needed by industries.

The county commissioners also heard a report from Frank Shutz concerning the citizens advisory committee

for the Clean Waters project. Shutz said a final report on the committee's recommendations will be available April 26. The commissioners also approved a resolution to put Commissioner Virginia Anderson's signature on papers relating to the housing rehabilitation projects scheduled for East Fork and Spring Creek. The resolution was necessary to satisfy requirements of the Natural Resources and Community Development program which will fund the project.

Mildred West reported to the board on the activities of the Emergency Medical Service. She said EMS made 74 runs in January, driving 3,914 miles. The paramedics answered 11 calls for heart at-

tacks and 6 automobile wrecks. Collections for the month totalled \$3,214, 92 percent of charges for service.

Delba Jean Roberts of the Madison County Transportation Authority addressed the board on a personnel matter. The board went into executive session for 30 minutes. When they returned to public session, the commissioners took no action on the matter discussed.

The commissioners passed a motion of support for the Community of Excellence program and adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison County Courthouse.



(Photo by Bob Koenig)

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS of the newly formed Marshall troop attended the Saturday morning performance of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus as guests of The

News Record. The girls made up as clowns for their trip to the greatest show on earth. They were accompanied by troop leader Phyllis Stiles.

Mars Hill Plans Fund Drive

Mars Hill College officials have announced a campaign to raise \$300,000 in Madison County.

College president Dr. Fred B. Bentley met with area trustees and advisors last week to create the "Madison Assurance Campaign." The college named Mars Hill physician Dr. W. Otis Duck and retired Marshall businessman John O. Corbett co-chairmen for the effort.

In announcing the drive, Bentley said, "For 127 years, Mars Hill College has made a major contribution to Madison County. While we are presently experiencing some

financial difficulty, I have been encouraged by the response to the supportive editorial published in the Feb. 8 issue of The News Record. Many county residents have contacted me since the editorial appeared expressing their desire to assist the college. This campaign is a response to their willingness to help."

The campaign will officially begin April 15 and will seek unrestricted gifts which the college may use where most needed or funds that may be used for the athletic program through the Golden M. Club. The drive will conclude May

16. The campaign will be conducted through five major divisions, each of which will have a chairman. Chairmen will direct several area coordinators. The divisions and their chairmen were also announced this week and include the following: business and industry, chaired by Charles Tolley, general manager of the French Broad Electric Membership Cooperative; public health and social services, chaired by Elizabeth Baker, public health nurse for the Madison County Health Dept.; alumni and friends, chaired by Mrs. Lillian Jones

O.J. Corbett of Marshall and Mattee Mashburn, administrative assistant with the law firm of Charles E. Mashburn; and the college division, chaired by James E. Cox, director of development for Mars Hill.

All five division chairmen are alumni or close friends and supporters of the college, as well as being community leaders. The first organizational meeting involving all five divisions, as well as the overall co-chairmen will be held at Madison High School March 17.