

A Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers,

Cheryl and I are celebrating our anniversary this week.

Not our wedding anniversary, that's in December. This week, we're celebrating the end of our first year at The News Record. It was one year ago today that we first arrived in Marshall to manage your county newspaper. Monday night marked the 52nd consecutive Monday night we stayed up late preparing for our Tuesday press run.

I can well remember my first day in Marshall. I was full of excitement about my new job and curiosity about my new town. After checking in at the office, I went for a walk up and down Main Street. After a casual jaunt from Cody Motors to the old railroad depot, I found myself wondering where the rest of the town was. It didn't take me long to figure out that there wasn't any more.

Later, I went down to the corner drug store for a cup of coffee and to find out what the local folks were talking about. I found that the locals were as curious about the newly arrived stranger in town as he was about them. I feel like we've spent the past year satisfying each other's curiosity.

I'll be the very first to admit that I have a lot to learn about Madison County and her people, but I have spent some time on the subject and I have learned a few things in the past year. Some things I've learned are worth mentioning.

When I first took the job, a friend who had lived here offered me a piece of advice. My friend told me, "Don't insult the kids or kick the dogs." It turns out that my friend had a good piece of advice for me. With the exception of the almighty, there's nothing more important to Madison County folks than their children and their dogs. I like that, because I feel the same way.

Madison County is a study in contrasts. We're dirt poor in many ways that the modern world considers important. We have little industry and too few opportunities for our young people. We are still a farming community in a time when many of our neighbors are turning to high technology industries.

We're rich in ways that cannot be bought or built, however. The streak of independence that the first mountaineers brought to our county still lingers today in the great-grandchildren of the pioneers. We may not be rich in material trappings, but we are wealthy beyond words, blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. It is our duty to protect and preserve that beauty for future generations.

The past year has been a good one, both for The News Record and for Cheryl and myself. As for The News Record, circulation is up more than 20 percent from last year at this time. We've also increased the average size of each issue by 50 percent and doubled the number of rack locations. Last year at this time, I told you that there would be changes made in your county newspaper. I promised you that we would add a sports page and we did. I also promised that changes would come gradually, and they have. Since adding the sports page, we have also added a page devoted to the news of our many area churches. The church news page is a fine addition to our paper and our advertisers deserve credit for supporting this important feature.

Next month with the opening of school, we will begin a new feature page devoted to the news of our county schools. Teachers and students at each of our county schools will be contributing articles on the latest news. We will also present school lunch menus, news of school board meetings and features on educational programs that deserve attention.

My experience with Madison High students in preparing the Graduation Day issue was one of the highlights of the past year. I'm looking forward to the new School News page and the opportunity to work with students in the county's other schools.

I can promise you that there will be other changes in The News Record down the road. This time around, however, I hope that you will help decide which direction your county newspaper takes. We have prepared a reader survey which you will find on Page 3. If you will take just a few moments of your time to fill out the survey, you will have a part in deciding what changes we will make next. We have also left plenty of room for any suggestions, complaints or comments you might care to make.

To reward you for filling out the survey, we're offering two specials on Page 4 this week. Subscribers who return a completed survey form can run a classified ad at no charge in next week's edition. If you don't subscribe and respond, we'll send you next week's paper free by mail. It's our way of thanking you for helping us.

The past year has been a very good one for the Koenigs. We've learned quite a lot about this place, met some fine folks and made some good friends. Best of all, we've found a place we're proud to call home.

Robert T. Koenig

Letters to the Editor

Concern For Animals Is Needed

To the editor:
Around 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, out telephone rang. Our neighbor, Mary Rice, informed us that our granddaughter Sarah's little dog, Joey, had been hit by a truck. Our first reaction was shock, followed by anger and concern for Joey. Dr. J.R. Allen was called in Mars Hill and Joey was rushed over to his office. Upon arriving at Dr. Allen's office, Joey was given treatment for shock and we were told that he would need to stay overnight for observation.

The story has a happy ending because we were told we could pick Joey up the next day. If our neighbor had not been so thoughtful as to call us, Sarah would have lost her much beloved pet from shock. A few years ago, we were not as lucky when our pet poodle was killed instantly by a hit and run. The lack of concern of some people for other people's property is greatly disturbing. We have been told that the charges for a hit and run on an animal is the same as for a person. Sarah's little dog might not mean much to some people who are guilty of this kind of act, but to a five year old child, it is really serious.

When a letter is read by the editor, we would first like to know if you take the time to read any of the letters that we print. We would have been glad to have been contacted. We would like to see you in person to discuss it.



SARAH is all smiles as she holds Joey.

animal in the highway, but try to remember that someone loves that animal very much. A few minutes of your time could mean life or death. We thank you for letting us share this experience with you and your readers.
Joe & Veneal Purnell
Wheat Creek Road

Dear Editor:
When I renewed my last subscription to The News Record, there is a possibility that I did not let you know that I would like The News Record sent to the above Nevada address in Las Vegas. You may be sending them to my address in Southside, Michigan. We do expect to return to

Michigan, but not for several months. So for the present or until further notice, would you be so kind as to send them here?
Las Vegas is, of course, an exciting city, but we are just as excited about reading your paper.
Best to all the staff.
Eugene Koenig
Las Vegas, Nevada

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



LIONS INSTALLATION ENJOYABLE

One of the most enjoyable occasions I attend annually is the Marshall Lions Club's installation ceremonies at the Peddler Steak House in Asheville. It is also the occasion when the Lionesses are special guests which always brightens up the affair. Frankly, I thought the Lionesses looked more attractive than ever on Monday night of last week.

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Joni Betz-Ellis, wife of John, the popular Hot Springs dentist. His office is in Hot Springs but they reside near Marshall. Joni is a swimming instructor at the Marshall pool.

Ed List, outgoing president of the club, welcomed the guests and Jerry Plemmons introduced the installing officer, R.L. Clark of the Asheville Lions Club.

Entertainment was furnished by guitarist-singer, Callie Warner, a member of the Mars Hill S.A.R.T. cast. She delighted the large group of singing three ballads.

Officers installed were: President, Harry Silver; First Vice-President, John Betz-Ellis; Second Vice-President, Wayne McDevitt; Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry Plemmons; Tail Twister, Lonnie Plemmons; Lion Tamer, Lew Alan Rice. Directors, Earle Wise, Jim Story, John Corbett, O.A. Gregory; and Ed List, Immediate Past President.

Harry Silver, president, adjourned the meeting.

BEAUTY SPOTS AROUND MARSHALL

The most casual observer of the summertime bloom and greenery must have noticed some of the beauty spots around Marshall these days.

To name a few: the mini-flower garden at the Housing Apartments on Main Street, base planting at the Rector-Leake Apartments, and the nearby sidewalk planter at City Hall, "Preach" Davis' parking lot, new curbside planting at the Marshall Presbyterian Church parking lot, the wall of flowers at Ponder's Chapel Church, doorway and other flowers at the Skyway Drive apartments and the unusual planting of yellow marigold at Northwestern Bank.

There have been beautiful roses blooming around the county jail, as well as roses at some of the houses at the lower end of Marshall. Many of the yards in Marshall are neatly mowed and offer the assurance of pride plus hard and continuous work in making Marshall a more beautiful place. Some merchants say they are planning to use some of the planting suggested by Townlift.

Other sections and towns in the county are also improving their appearances and have worthwhile projects which I hope to mention in this column in the future.

I wish to thank Mrs. Ruth Gregory for bringing my attention to many of the above mentioned beautification projects.



Steve Ferguson

Summer Is . . .

Summer is a lot of things to a lot of people.

What's important is to enjoy it! You get out in the sunshine, play in the water, bask on the sand and call it a summer.

There's a funny side to everything, including the hottest season of the year.

Summer is...

...Getting hooked on soap operas like you did last year.

...Realizing you haven't missed a thing on the soaps since last summer.

...Learning the Summer's latest weird styles.

...Going broke to finance your vacation.

...The joys of nature, like stepping on a bee with bare feet.

...Cruising Patton Ave., waving at all the members of the opposite sex, even though you know you're too scared to really meet them face to face.

...Washing, waxing, vacuuming and dusting your car knowing full well when you clean it it always rains within the next 24 hours.

...Swingin'.

...Long, boring hours when you've got nothing else to do except perfect your Putt-Putt technique.

...Dreaming about the cool, white ski slopes.

...The time to start buying Christmas presents.

...Realizing you'll still be rushing around like wild on Christmas Eve like the rest of us.

...Losing your glasses off the end of your nose.

...Swimming in the cool blue water to get out of the bright orange sun and getting very red eyes.

...Knowing that even the most cultured person can't eat watermelon without dribbling a little down their chin.

...Dogs that discover the ecstasy of rolling in cowpiles.

...Dogs that sleep outside until they learn better.

...Having your first backyard party, your first backyard barbecue and your first backyard fire, in that order.

...The smell of rain on hot pavement, and fresh cut grass.

...Starting that exercise program you wanted to, then quitting after a month because it's just too hot — maybe we'll try it when its cooler in the Fall.

...Dreading Andy Griffith reruns.

...The pain of weeding everything, including your room.

And there friends, is another collection of my insights on Summer. You probably noticed that the column is a little shorter than usual. That's 'cause this guy is on vacation. Summer is...lazy columnists, too.

Ramsey

Continued from Page 1

small counties to get our fair share or nothing will pass."

In a Monday telephone interview with The News Record, Ramsey said, "The Senate has amended it to where the legislature would levy the tax across the state and tell the counties how to spend the money. I take the position that county commissioners and mayors are capable of handling their own business."

Ramsey opposes the bill passed in the Senate because he believes that counties such as Madison would be short-changed. He said, "The bureaucrats would dish out most of the money based on need. We'd wind up paying for water and sewer lines for industrial development in the Piedmont. Madison County doesn't have a lot of industrial development. Why should people in Spring Creek and Laurel pay for industrial expansion in the Piedmont? I don't think they'd like to pay another half cent sales tax and get back only half of that."

Letter Policy

The News Record welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Do you have a complaint, a question or suggestion? Share your thoughts with our readers in a letter to the editor.

The News Record attempts to publish all letters received. In order to qualify for publication, the letter must be signed and include the writer's address and a telephone number so that we can verify the identity of the writer.

We reserve the right to edit all letters in the interest of space. Any and all such revisions will be discussed with the letter writer prior to publication.



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