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Commissioners Restore County Jobs

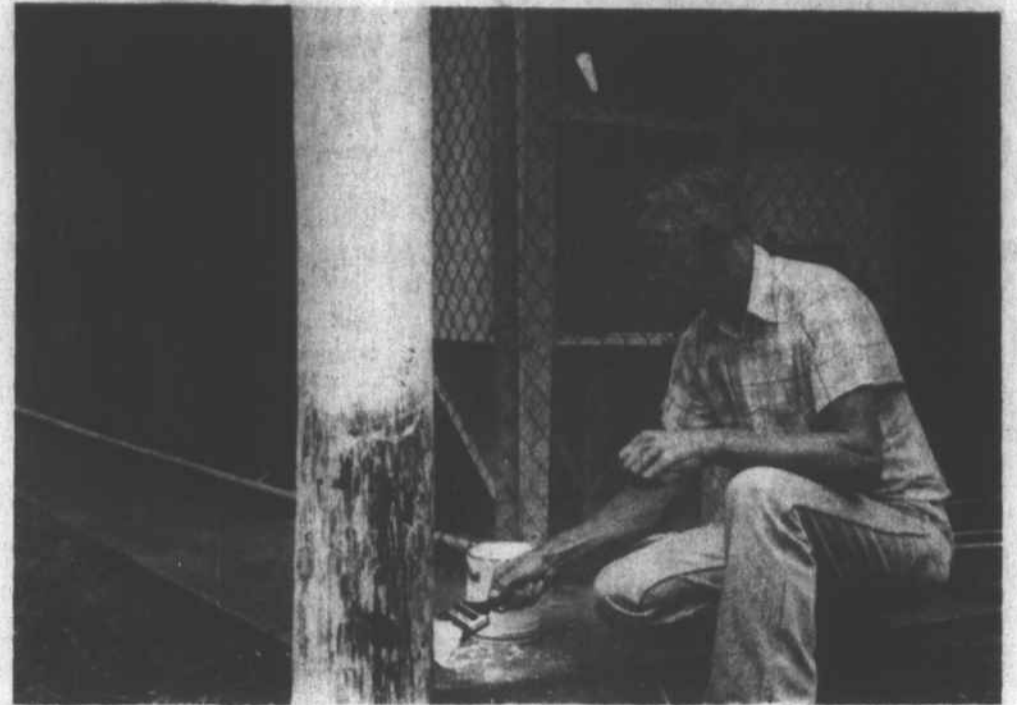
Four county positions which were discontinued on July 1 as cost-cutting measures were refilled in the past week. The Madison County Board of Commissioners cut 13 jobs from the county payroll at the start of the current fiscal year in order to balance the county budget.

The commissioners voted at their August 5 meeting to reinstate a secretary in the office of the Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Service. The position is the only job in the office funded by the county. Starr Ray was appointed to the position formerly held by Lori Reece.

Ashley Ball, whose position as sanitarian with the county Health Department was discontinued on July 1, returned to work on Monday.

The commissioners also approved reactivating the county animal shelter and appointed Carl Ed Murray dog warden on a full-time basis. The job was formerly held by Denny Goforth on a part-time basis.

Referring to the animal shelter, county commissioners' chairman James Ledford told *The News Record*, "We'll soon have the best dog pound in Western North Carolina."



Shelter Spruce Up

CARL ED MURRAY, the county's new dog warden, applies a coat of paint to the animal shelter Monday. Murray is refurbishing the shelter in preparation for reopening sometime next week.

Growers Oppose Quota Reductions

The Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina has asked the state's congressional delegation to oppose attempts to reduce the amount of burley tobacco quota a farmer can lease from another farm and transfer to his own.

The association took the position at the request of its burley members, who met at Mars Hill on Aug. 4 and voted to make the request.

Under current legislation, a burley grower can lease up to 30,000 quota pounds and grow it together with his own. A proposal to reduce that amount to 15,000 pounds has been brought before Congress, and it is this proposal that the association is opposing.

"We look at this proposal as an undesirable step backward," says T.C. Blalock, executive vice president of the association. "We fear that the result could be that the state's quota of burley will not be grown."

The average burley tobacco allotment in North Carolina is 1,212 pounds, about a half acre. "If a grower is limited to 15,000 pounds that he can lease, it will not be large enough to be an economic unit for a full-time farmer," says Blalock. "Limiting the amount an individual can lease will make it more difficult to attract enough full time burley growers to produce all of the allotment in our state."

1982 was the first year in some time in which North Carolina farmers grew all the burley tobacco they were entitled to under the quota system. It was also the first year in which growers could lease in as much as 30,000 pounds. Previously, a 15,000 pound limit has been in effect.

They also voted to request that the association:

- Seek authorization for burley growers to sell their quota separate from the land (a privilege that was granted to growers of the flue-cured type of tobacco in the 1982 reforms);
- Seek to obtain for burly quota owners the privilege of designating burley quota when selling land with quota attached.
- Seek a single marketing package for burley.

Blalock has written letters outlining all five of the positions to Sen. Jesse Helms and to U.S. Reps. John East and to U.S. Reps. James McClure Clarke, Stephen Neal and James Broyhill, whose districts cover the burly-producing region of western North Carolina. The association's positions have also been relayed to U.S. Rep. Charles Rose, chairman of the House Tobacco Subcommittee.

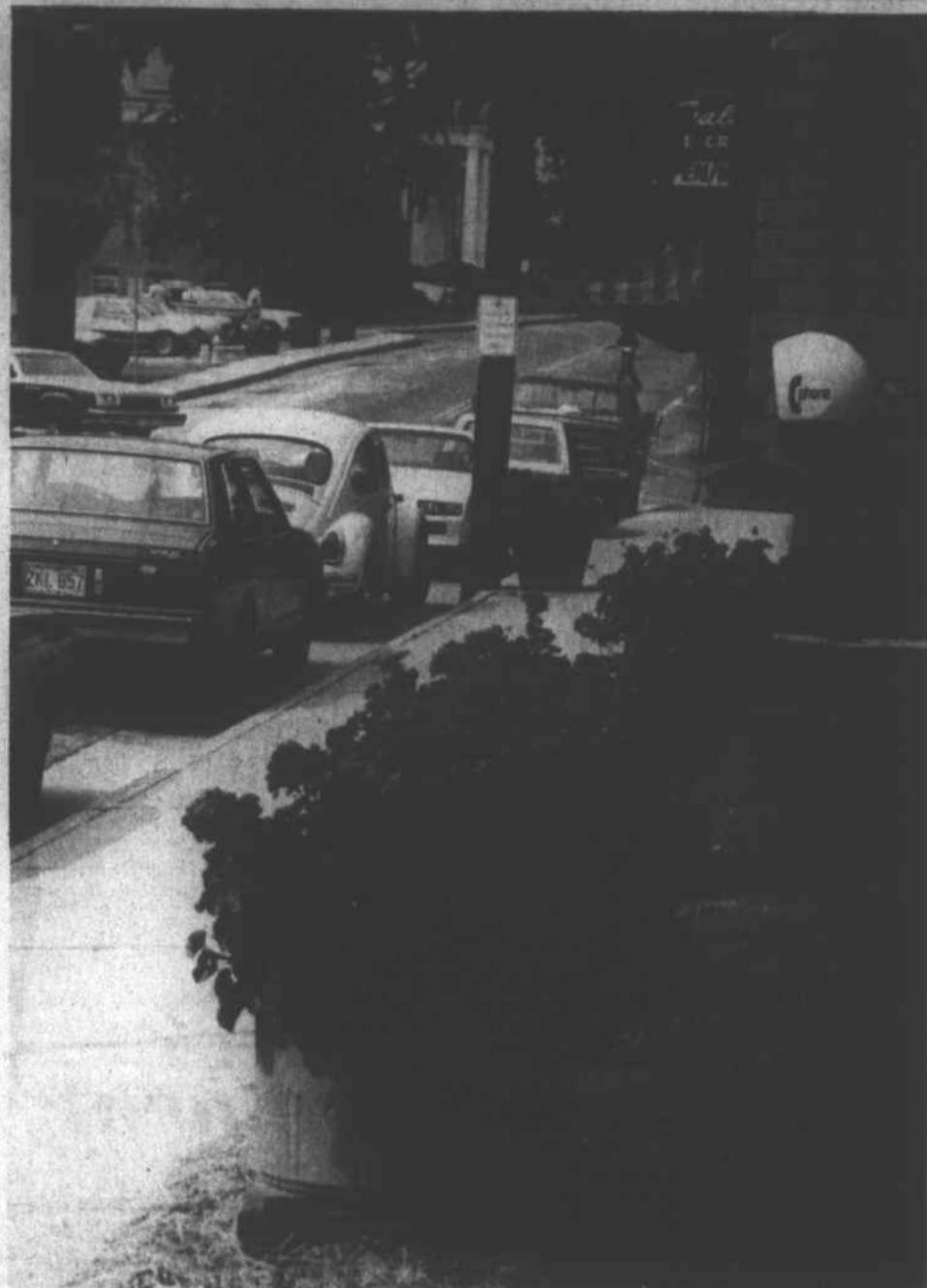
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Mars Hill Blooms

GERANIUMS PLANTED BY THE MARS HILL COMMUNITY CLUB brighten the street of Mars Hill these days. The club will represent the area in the community beautification competition sponsored by the Western North Carolina Community Development Association. Mars Hill has also been selected as a finalist in the mobile home portion of the community improvement competition.

Woman Killed In Mars Hill Wreck

A two-car collision Saturday morning near Mars Hill killed an Asheville woman and injured a 19-year old Mars Hill woman.

Anna Mable Rhymer, 51, of Asheville was believed to have been killed instantly when the 1970 Ford she was driving was sideswiped by a 1963 Chevrolet station wagon driven by Sandra Lou Peterson, 19, of Route

1, Mars Hill. According to State Highway Patrol Trooper A.L. Cooper, the accident occurred on U.S. 19 six miles east of Mars Hill at 11:35 a.m.

The accident occurred when Mrs. Peterson lost control of her car. According to Trooper A.L. Cooper, the car went off the road before returning to the road and crossed the

center line, striking the car driven by Mrs. Rhymer.

Mrs. Peterson, who is eight months pregnant, was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville by the Madison County Emergency Medical Service. A spokesman for the hospital told *The News Record* that Mrs. Peterson was listed in fair condition on Monday night.

The Highway Patrol also reported that four other passengers in the Peterson car were taken to Memorial Mission Hospital.

Mrs. Rhymer was a native of Madison County and was employed by Microswitch in Mars Hill. Funeral services for the victim were held Tuesday in the Riverside Baptist Church in Asheville.

Weaverville Town Council Approves Paving Project

The Weaverville Town Council approved improvements to several streets and the town's community center at its monthly meeting Monday night.

The council unanimously approved paving portions of

Oakland St., Harbac Drive, West St. and Central Ave. upon the recommendation of Town Manager Larry Sprinkle, Jr., who presented the council with cost estimates for the project.

The council also approved

by unanimous vote a motion to spend \$3,435 to reroof the town clubhouse. Sprinkle reported that "The roof is absolutely shot. Either we reroof the building or we'll have to tear it down."

Sprinkle said he had received

two estimates, one of \$3,435 to replace the entire roof and one of \$1,865 to replace a portion most in need of repair. The council voted to replace the entire roof.

A 300-foot section of Har-

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Dr. Evelyn Underwood: Teaching For The Joy Of It

By PAULINE B. CHEEK

"And gladly would he learn, and gladly teach." Chaucer's description of the Oxford clerk applies equally well to Dr. Mary Evelyn Underwood of Mars Hill.

"I've wanted to be a teacher since I was knee-high to a duck," she says. "I taught my dolls, and I was teacher with other children. The most exciting thing in the world to me is learning something new."

The pattern for her life was set in her Waynesville home, on the site of the first Underwood to come to Haywood County. It was a home in which the beautiful and the good, meaning "useful," were valued. Although one of seven children, she grew up among adults, she says, and she did whatever her mother did; housework, interior decorating, needlework, collecting antiques. From her father, she acquired industriousness and a love of gardening. Her parents encouraged their daughters as well as sons to go to college.

For Dr. Underwood, college meant the University of N.C. at Greensboro. There, she came under the influence of professors who determined her life-long pursuit of history. The focus of her study has altered over the years, however. "I did as much in European history as American, and I loved it," she recalls. "Not till after my doctorate at UNC-CH did I get into local history." On her own, she studied African history, developing a course on the subject for Mars Hill College.

Dr. Underwood has been something of a pioneer in studying oral history. Until the early '70's, historians tended to concentrate upon the international scene and to discredit local history, especially oral history, as provincial.

"I came into local history by accident," she admits. "My interest was largely inspired by a felt need to help local students find themselves. Everybody ought to be proud of his heritage...I had to do a history seminar, and I wanted students to do original research. One summer a boy said, 'I'd like to do my community.'...I saw the possibility, and so I said, 'Fine. Here is a laboratory for us. Anything we do will be original.' That opened up a whole new field of history for me."

Through her, the field has been opened to many other people as well. She has arranged three oral history workshops at Mars Hill, bringing to the campus other forerunners in the use of that approach. As oral history director for the Appalachian Consortium, she was instrumental in introducing the subject into college curricula. She has amassed a tremendous amount of data about Madison County and Western North Carolina, and, perhaps most important of all, she has done so in cooperation with students, while initiating them in sound historical methodology.

She credits Bayard Rustin for introducing her and her students to Madison County people. "I told him I wanted to collect the truth about our region. He said, 'I'm for it, and I'll introduce

you.'"

The first visit was to the home of Bud Shelton: "Mr. Shelton sat on the other side of the coffee table and just started to talk...Thank goodness, I took notes, for the old tape recorder didn't work." Thus began a project which she considers "one of the most rewarding and interesting things I ever did with students." Another highlight of her career was the 10-week class in local history she taught for senior citizens in the Laurel section of the county. "It was a way to gather marvelous material, and we had such a good time doing it."

So much material has she collected, in fact, that she feels a sense of urgency about incorporating it into a full-scale history of Madison County. Three years ago she retired from the Department of History at Mars Hill College, a position she has held since a Sunday in the summer of 1944, when her pastor in Waynesville, a trustee of the college, invited her to come to Mars Hill to inquire about a vacancy on the faculty.

Retirement from the classroom has not brought a change of pace to her life, however. Already she has near completion a history of Waynesville Baptist Church, in which she traces the growth of the church within the context of the development of the community and the denomination. Next on her list of priorities is to publish her dissertation, a biography of Gov. Angus W. McLean. "Then," she says, "I



DR. EVELYN UNDERWOOD

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