

Editorial

Spring Creek Dilemma

The future of Madison County's smallest school, Spring Creek Elementary, is at stake. Hundreds of Spring Creek parents expressed their concern for the schools future at a PTA meeting held Thursday night. Everyone with an interest in the education of our young people should be concerned by the recent developments in the West Madison community.

Spring Creek Elementary School is currently home for 109 county youngsters. School officials are worried that the opening of a proposed private school in nearby Meadow Park will draw students away from the public school. Should the private school succeed in attracting sizeable numbers of Spring Creek students, Spring Creek residents fear the county Board of Education may look to close down the small school.

The problem presented by the Spring Creek situation may soon repeat itself through out the nation. Public confidence in the public education system has dropped considerably in the

past year. Parents' lack of confidence in the public school system will lead to the development of private schools in every town across America.

The Reagan administration has supported tuition tax credits for parents of children attending private schools. Should a tuition tax credit plan be approved, the private school movement will gain a federal subsidy that will undermine the quality of public education.

During the meeting at Spring Creek School last week, principal Larry Plemmons posed an interesting question. Plemmons asked, "Does private education have a right to harm public education?" It is an intriguing question that we will one day have to answer if current trends are not halted.

With only four full-time teachers, the educators at Spring Creek School do an amazing job under difficult circumstances. The closing of Spring Creek School would be a tragedy for Madison County that must be avoided.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



"QUIET" SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

As this column is being written the annual Marshall Lions Club softball tournament is still in progress but should be completed before you read this.

I journeyed over to the Island three nights to watch part of the action but was surprised to notice little cheering, sparse crowds, and fewer teams competing in years past. Could this mean that interest is waning?

I may be wrong but I believe only seven girls' teams entered the tourney and only eight men's teams participated. Last year there were more than 20 teams in the event to this year's 15 teams.

Maybe next year more teams will enter and this will mean more spectators ...and more excitement.

WELCOME RELIEF

Cooler weather during the last few days has certainly been welcome to everyone in this community. Several delightful showers ended the sweltering 90-plus degrees but more rain is needed to keep gardens, flowers, and crops from scorching. Cool, comfortable nights have also been fine for "good sleeping." Let's hope that September will stay at normal temperatures.

MARSHALL STREET MARKERS

Have you ever wondered how many "street markers" have been installed in the corporate limits?

I recently decided to make a quick spot-check of the green and white markers and although I am sure there might be more, I noticed the following:

Main Street, Redmon Road, Hill Street, Deringer Drive, Mato Road, Reservoir Rd., Skyway Drive, Cody Road, Nix Drive, Dr. Ramsey Drive, Sprinkle Drive, O.C. Rector Road, Walnut Creek Drive, Sunset Drive, Candler Drive, Roberts Hill Road, Story Road, Frisby Drive, P. Davis Road, Hardwick Branch, Meadows Town St., Rector Corner Road, Rector Corner Apts. Drive, Ramsey Road, Cotton Mill Hill, Ponder Drive, and Fortner Hollow. If there are more, please let me know.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GETS STARTED

The 1983 high school football season started last Friday night with such favored teams as Brevard, Pisgah, Tuscola and North Buncombe being defeated in opening games. Brevard, 1982 State 3A champions, bowing to West Henderson, 14-0; Pisgah losing to Hendersonville, 21-14; Tuscola victims of Sylva-Webster, 9-6, while North Buncombe lost to Roberson, 24-6.

The Madison High Patriots also lost its first game to Edneyville by one point, 13-12.

The Patriots have an open date this Friday before meeting Enka at Enka on Friday night, Sept. 9.



Letters to the Editor

Third Graders Express Thanks

Dear Mr. Koenig,
We, the third grade students at Marshall Primary School, wish to thank you for giving us a copy of The News Record. We enjoyed reading it very much.
Your discussion on how the paper was put together was very interesting. When we read the paper we will understand more about it.
We really appreciate your interest in becoming a part of our school.
Mrs. Gahagan's third grade class

Dear Mr. Koenig,
I do like The News Record. I thank you. It was fun.
Your buddy,
Shane S.

Dear Mr. Koenig,
Thank you for the copies of The News Record. Our class read it for an hour. We had lots of fun.
Your friend,
Mary

Dear Mr. Koenig,
Thank you for The News Record. I liked it.
Love,
Darlene Brown

Dear Mr. Koenig,
Thank you for the copies of The News Record. We discussed how the paper is and how it goes. I think it is a hard job to get all those words in the paper. I wish you good luck.
Your friend,
Johnnie

Dear Mr. Koenig,
Thank you for the copies of The News Record. Would you send us some more newspaper?
Your chum,
Alecia

Dear Mr. Koenig,
I like The News Record. It has lots of details of things around the world. I hope you have a long and happy life.
Love,
Tara

Dear Editor:
I appreciate the response I got from the letter in your paper two weeks ago concerning Mrs. Pearl Price.
Mrs. Price has received several cards and letters from friends in Madison and Buncombe counties.
Mrs. Price has improved to the point that she doesn't need a nursing facility. Therefore she has moved to "Windwood Rest Home," a division of "Haven Rest Home." Her new address will be Haven Rest Home, P.O. Box 65, Candler, N.C. 28715.
I would also like for you to mail Mrs. Price's News Record to the same address.
Thank you,
Geneva Griffin
Marshall, N.C.

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.

Bus Safety

Dear Editor:
Sixty-four children from Big Laurel ride a school bus packed four to a seat four hours a day. Is this anyway to treat children and their driver? Today the bus broke down again and another hour to the trip. It's normally a half hour ride to Hills.
To whom can we appeal for smaller buses? The principal and Board of Education say they have no power to

insure the health and safety of our children by insisting on enough decent buses.
To whom can we appeal? I am very concerned. I have four children riding this bus. They and their fellow students appreciate their school and their teachers but dread the bus rides.
I would appreciate any ideas and response.
Mary Filias



Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN

Feline Therapy

In this column, I shall protect the identity of those whose emotional scars are still sensitive, give a report in literal truth, and make a point worth remembering.
Stuart Campbell was one of five sons whose parents did not tolerate the use of alcoholic beverages in any form, in any amount, at any time. Therefore, nobody in his family drank — except Stuart. Arriving at young manhood, he would occasionally get involved with "the wrong crowd" and drink. Still less often, he would become very intoxicated.
Anita Heinz grew up in a much larger family where the prohibition against the use of alcohol was even stronger. No person in her family would ever "touch the stuff!"
From their first meeting, Stuart and Anita were interested in one another. Their courtship was neither stormy, complicated, nor long. Anita, still hating alcohol with a rabid purple passion, married Stuart even though she knew that he occasionally "took a drink with the boys" and that a few times he had been roaring drunk.
There is the beginning of the

tale!
Not long after this young couple married and set up housekeeping on their own, Stuart came home from town late one Saturday afternoon obviously "under the influence." He was not incapacitated; he was merely "polluted."
Anita shamed him, lectured him, belittled him, scolded him, and profoundly threatened him. All of this disaster she would bring on him if he ever "touched the stuff" again.
He did not touch it for about a year; and then one time he did. He drank, got drunk, and passed out. His buddies delivered him home in a two-horse wagon.
Anita asked his friends to take Stuart inside the house and put him to bed. They followed her instructions and then drove on down the road toward their home.
Anita covered Stuart with two new sheets and began to sew the edges of the sheets to the mattress. Around and around the bed she went with a large needle and heavy thread, whipstitching the sheets to the mattress, with Stuart, still unaware, beneath the sheets.

When she had him unquestionably contained, Anita took a window stick and began beating Stuart. This she continued until he was a bloody wreck. He promised that if she would quit beating him and not kill him, he would never, never drink again.
He repeatedly punctuated her lecture and threats with this promise. Finally, she ceased pounding him and, with her scissors, released the miserable creature from beneath the bloody sheets.
Stuart made good his repeated promise. He never touched alcohol again!
However, after 32 years of "marriage," during which they reared six children, Stuart left Anita. Divorcing her, he never went back home again.
Many people sensed the tragedy in the divorce who knew nothing at all of his "conversion" or of his long "marriage."
One sympathizer expressed regret and surprise at the marriage failure to Gladys, the oldest child.
"After 32 years? I just don't understand it!" she said.
Gladys replied calmly but with deep feeling, "The only

thing I don't understand about it is why it didn't happen 32 years ago!"
Gladys knew that her parents had never had a real marriage.
Now to the point worth remembering.
It was Anita's privilege and right to reject Stuart if she did not think he met her social and moral standards. In truth, she should have rejected him!
It was neither Anita's privilege nor her right to take him as he was and then proceed to remake him according to her own designs. In truth, she should not have tried.
Stuart did not cease to be a drinker. He simply was felled a slave — not allowed to follow his real inclination.
People resent being slaves — that is, living their own and only life at the behest of another person.
My suggestion to people thinking about marriage is this: If the one you are thinking of marrying has some habit or ideal you cannot live with the rest of your life, leave him or her alone!
Only God has the right to make a human being in his image.

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