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NEIGHBOR Cosie Ray looks over stove and flue believed to have caused the Shelton Laurel fire.

Fire Guts House In Shelton Laurel

The home of the Robert Lee Cutshall family in Shelton Laurel near Carmen Church was gutted by fire Saturday afternoon. Cutshall is assistant fire chief of the new Laurel Fire Company.

Women of the fire company are taking up a collection for the family, which lost not only home but clothes and most of their belongings except the living room furniture.

The Cutshalls were away from the house working in a tobacco field when Gary Johnson, a neighbor, spotted the fire, says Linda Franklin, secretary of the department. Mr. Johnson ran to the house and pulled out the living room furniture while a friend called

the Marshall Fire Department, which sends out the alarm over the Laurel company's radio beepers.

The Laurel company, with one truck and 12 men and women, responded and believed the fire had been extinguished, when suddenly an explosion of fire in the upper story filled the house with flames. Linda Franklin said the fire was believed to have started in a flue of the family's wood stove, and that possibly a build up of gasses from the fire caused the sudden explosion of flames.

The Marshall fire company also responded to the fire call, but by the time it arrived the house was largely gutted. By 6

p.m. the fire was out.

Men of the Laurel company were able to help pull out the living room furniture, but the house burned completely except for the brick shell. Mr. and Mrs. Cutshall and their daughter Linda Lee will be staying with Mrs. Cutshall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shelton.

Members of the community are planning a household shower for the family on Saturday, Oct. 8. Those who would like to know more about the shower or how to give to the collection for the family may call Linda Franklins at 656-2625 or Mary Gilbert at 656-2264.

School Buses Exceed Bridge Weight Limits

By ELIZABETH SQUIRE

While all of Madison County's school buses weigh about 11 or 12 tons loaded, five of the bridges they cross to bring children to school are posted as safe to carry no more than eight tons.

Eleven other bridges the buses cross week after week are posted to carry no more than nine or ten tons. In all, 27 of these bus-carrying bridges are certified to carry less than the 15 tons that Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, says he would like to see as a safe margin.

Under-standard bridges are avoided by bus route planners where possible, he explains, but in many cases "there is no other way to get there."

Therefore, on Tuesday, at a meeting called by Zeno Ponder of the State Transportation Board to discuss priorities for spending state bridge money, Mr. Edwards is recommending that all 27 bridges be brought up to the 15-ton standard.

About the condition of state bridges in Madison County, he said:

Mitchell, McDowell, Burke, Haywood and Yancey counties. Ponder called the meeting in Asheville to get recommendations for use of this money from the seven counties' Efficiency Committees:

- committees knowledgeable about school bus safety needs. Edwards is a member of Madison's committee, and has been collecting data about the bridges.
- The frailest bridges, posted for eight tons or less, are these:
 - Two bridges on Big Laurel Creek, both on state road 1306. Bridge 500 is 50 feet south of the junction with state road 1318, and bridge 381 is three-tenth miles south of that junction.
 - Little Laurel Creek bridge SR1306-276 one-tenth mile west of the junction with NC208.
 - E. Fork Bull Creek bridge SR1363-56, one-tenth mile north of the junction with state road 1344.
 - Bull Creek bridge SR1374-14, three-tenths mile east of the junction with state road 1336.

more than nine tons are:

- Walnut Creek's SR1136-360, three-tenths mile northwest of the junction with 1138.
- The bridge on state road 1414 one-tenth mile west of the junction with 1138.

(Continued on Page 10)

Governor's Award Goes to Marshall

Marshall has again been named winner of the Governor's Community of Excellence Award, to be presented to a local official at a statewide economic development conference in Raleigh on Oct. 19 by Gov. James B. Hunt.

The award goes to communities that have met requirements designed to make them more attractive to economic development and that have fewer than 15,000 people, according to North Carolina Dept. of Commerce.

whose representatives visited Marshall to assure it met the standards.

Among the standards Marshall had to meet to gain the award, the department said, were to have an economic promotional organization to promote the community for plant location, an economic development corporation able to option, purchase and sell property, and available industrial sites.

Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder said much credit for the award goes to Jerry Flem-

mons, of French Broad EMC, who helped draw up the award application for the town.

"With our industrial park essentially completed, with the road development we now have, and with water and sewer improvements here in town," said Mayor Ponder, "we're much more competitive in trying to recruit industry."

The Mayor added that "the Governor's Award means officially we are most interested in economic development in Marshall and in Madison County."

Two Returned On Felony Charges

The Madison County Sheriff's Department is bringing William Langley back to Madison County from Chickamauga, Georgia, to face two felony charges. He is alleged to have taken orders to repair houses in a flim-flam scheme and then did not repair the houses.

The department is also returning Melvin C. Piper Jr. from Harrisburg, Pa., on charges of theft of an automobile and two counts of first-degree burglary. The charges arise from a break-in at the home of Stella Whitson in Walnut and another at the home of Robina Adams Bryant in which \$1200 in cash, six guns, some tools, quilts and other items were stolen.

The Sheriff's Department continues to investigate the murders of William Grady Gahagan and Bonnie Gahagan on July 28. The sheriff's men and the S. B. I. continue to look into the case from every possible angle, Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said this week.

Marijuana Cases Continued

In district court last week, Auvary Fender waived a probable-cause hearing on a charge of trafficking in marijuana and was bound over to Superior Court.

Also bound over to Superior Court, on a charge of manufacturing marijuana, was Lionell Filis; following a probable-cause hearing in district court.

Probable-cause hearings on marijuana manufacturing charges are scheduled for Oct. 5 for Vandon Cody and Billy Ramsey, and for Oct. 6 for Robbie Evans.

Sewer Work 'Tough Job' With Much Blasting



IN A DEEP, rocky hole, Mayor Lawrence Ponder of Marshall and Councilman James Penland point out the eight-inch sewer pipe that requires so much difficult digging and blasting close to houses. The sewer line for Walnut Creek Road

requires 10 times more difficult digging than most jobs the company attempts, said a representative of Taylor and Murphy Construction Company of Asheville, which is installing the line.

Mayor Lawrence Ponder has received so many calls asking why the road from lower Marshall to the by-pass has to remain closed so long that he asked The News Record this week to take a picture of the huge rocks that have to be blasted out of the ground to make way for a new sewer line.

The site of the line is so difficult to excavate that about 75 feet a day is hard to handle, while a flat field job would allow excavation of about 800 feet a day, says William Lapsley, engineer with Butler/McGill Associates who designed the system.

Because the blasting has to be close to houses such as that of Hubert Rector, who can watch it from his front porch, the work has to be done with extreme care, Lapsley said.

Estimates put the end of this part of the job around Thanksgiving, and the finish of the entire sewer project around Christmas.

Grant To Aid Hot Springs Sewer Work

A \$19,466 Community Development Block Grant Program award will enable Hot Springs to put the finishing touches on its sewer program, Mayor Debbie Ponder Baker told The News Record.

The award, one of \$48 million in the program announced by Gov. James B. Hunt, will enable Hot Springs to complete work on sewage facilities in the Silvermine section and along the river road to install septic tanks at houses that do not now have them.

Work will also be completed on installation of septic tanks at two or three houses on Route 209 that do not now have them, Mayor Baker said.

Planners Map Goals For County Growth

By C. B. SQUIRE

Madison County should seek a balance between population growth and economic development "that would make it feasible for a Madison County citizen to remain in the county," according to a 13-page report by the Madison County Planning Board.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by The News Record, has been submitted to the Madison County Board of Commissioners. It is entitled "Plans for the Future: 1983-1990," and deals with desired goals for economic development, agriculture, housing, county government, education, land-water-air resources, recreation and heritage.

In urging economic development that "sustains regional values and traditions," the report cautions that "while modernization can do much to improve the quality of life and

ease the burdens of daily existence, it also has the potential to destroy those aspects of the human spirit which make life in these mountains most meaningful."

Development, therefore, should be the kind that "fosters and preserves the integrity of the family, the neighborhood, the church and our human and natural resources," the report adds.

Cautioning that the post-Depression "selling of the South" was accomplished through programs to balance agriculture with industry, the report warns, however, that industrial development in counties such as Madison has often been at the expense of the traditional agricultural economy, bringing "major social dislocation, economic inequality and the deterioration of traditional community values."

not be appropriate for mountain farms."

Specifically, the report calls for "alternative forms of production and marketing" of farm products; "development of new retail businesses," that support local agriculture, and at the same time promotion of "small, locally or regionally owned" industrial projects that "make use of local skills, markets or resources" but don't overshadow the rural agricultural economy.

The report also emphasizes the development of retail businesses as a way to retain more sales-tax revenue in the county. "One of the most severe problems faced by rural counties located next to urban-industrial centers," the report warns "is the loss of retail business and tax

revenues to the industrial core," especially in Madison County where 35% of the labor force is employed outside the county. Any alternative program for economic development, therefore, "must include efforts to encourage county residents to spend more of their incomes within their home county" and for "more, locally-based retail enterprises."

As a factor in economic planning, tourism can play a role in Madison County, the report states, but "can pose major problems for a rural mountain county if not guided and controlled for the benefit of all the citizens of the community."

The planning group said (Continued on Page 10)

Old Gulf Station Tearing-Down Work Starts With Roof



Work started late last week on partial demolition of the former Gulf station on the upper end of Main Street west to Roberts' Church.

The crumbling roof and other non-masonry parts of the structure were removed by a crew headed by Tom Holms, the structure's owner.

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