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Aldermen Meet

Marshall To Seek TVA Assistance

The Marshall Board of Aldermen agreed to seek assistance in detecting leaks in the town's water system at their monthly meeting Monday night. At the suggestion of Jim Stocco of the Land of the Sky Regional Council, the aldermen voted to ask the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to assist Marshall in locating major leaks in the town's aging water system.

Stocco told the board that TVA has sophisticated leak detection equipment and technicians available to assist towns in locating the source of water leaks. Stocco said the TVA normally provided towns with the equipment to conduct their own search for leaks. He added, however, that TVA will sometimes, "go beyond the call of duty" and assign a TVA technician to supervise the survey of the water system.

Detecting and repairing leaks in the system could provide the town with substantial savings in electric charges. Marshall's water is pumped from four wells into the town. By reducing the amount of water that must be pumped,

the town will also reduce the charges for the electricity needed to pump the water from the wells.

An earlier TVA study of the problem revealed that Marshall may be losing as much as 40 percent of the water pumped due to leakage in the system.

Stocco said, "As I see it, a good solution would be to find where the major leaks are and make repairs. The savings from fixing the major leaks could then pay for additional repairs."

Bill Lapsley, an engineer with Butler-McGill Associates, told the board members that repairing the leaks in the system will not account for all the water the town is pumping. Lapsley said, "What we're calling 'leakage' is actually unaccounted for water. There may also be some lines in the system that no one is aware of, or there may be broken meters that are not registering properly."

Gary McGill, an engineer with Butler-McGill, supported Stocco's suggestion saying,

"This is a problem that will only get worse. At some point, it will have to be addressed. If the town can commit the resources that are necessary, I think the town should seize this opportunity. If you seriously want to solve the leakage problem, this is the way to go about it."

Morris Trammel, the town's water engineer, told the board that Marshall is pumping approximately eight million gallons of water each month, well above the amount pumped at the same time last year. Mayor Lawrence Ponder estimated that the town is billing customers for about two million gallons. Trammel said that the cost of pumping the water from the town wells is about \$3,000 per month. Much of the cost of pumping, he said, comes from pumping water from the reservoir on Fortner Hollow.

Trammel reported that, while Marshall was pumping about five million gallons a month last year during July and August, it pumped eight million gallons during the



LAWRENCE PONDER

...Marshall Mayor files for re-election.

Incumbents File For Re-election

Incumbent mayors in all three Madison County towns and Weaverville have filed for re-election in the upcoming municipal elections. Mars Hill Mayor Bill Powell and Weaverville Mayor Dr. Lawrence Sprinkle filed for the election last week. On Monday, Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder and Hot Springs Mayor Debbie Baker entered the race.

Municipal elections in all four towns will be held on Nov. 8. Candidates have until noon on Friday to file for election. Residents wishing to vote in the municipal elections have until Oct. 10 to register.

In Marshall, Ponder filed for the election along with incumbent aldermen Jackie Davis and John Dodson. The third member of the panel, James Penland, told The News Record on Monday night that he is still undecided on making a re-election bid.

Earlier, Charlie Sexton and Sammy Lunsford filed for election to the three-member board of aldermen.

In Mars Hill, incumbent Mayor Bill Powell will face Jeanne Hoffmann in the mayoral race. Incumbent aldermen Arthur Wood and Dr. W. O. Duck have filed for election along with William Powell III and John L. Chandler. Alderman Gordon Randolph told The News Record on Monday night that he will not seek another term on the town board. Randolph said he hopes to continue to serve the town as the fire chief.

Hot Springs Mayor Debbie Baker officially entered the race for mayor Monday night following the monthly meeting of the board of aldermen. Incumbent aldermen Gene Autrey and Jerry Ramsey have also filed for re-election. The third member of the

board, Wesley Staude, has indicated he would not seek another term. Waylon Puryear and Kenny Ramsey have also filed for the aldermen election.

With less than a week to go before filing closes, the Weaverville municipal elections have attracted the most entrants. Incumbent Mayor Lawrence Sprinkle will be opposed by David E. Bell on the November ballot. Incumbent council members M. J. West, Glenn Brank, Robert Cheek and L. A. Weaver have filed for election along with challengers Jerry Gordon, Harold Payne, Robert Driebelbis, M. J. Galloway, Kathleen Young and Mary B. Trexler.

A number of additional candidates are expected to file as the Friday noon deadline approaches.

M.H. Board Approves Sewer Project Budget

The Town of Mars Hill will save approximately \$2,000 a year in insurance premiums because of a switch in the matter the town's vehicles are insured. Town manager Dahryl Boone made the announcement at Monday night's meeting of the board of aldermen.

Boone said the town recently cancelled a policy it held with Woodson-Ray Insurance Co. in favor of a plan offered by Wright Agency of Weaverville. Boone said the savings will be realized by consolidating policies on the town's vehicles.

LeRoy Griffin, owner of the Woodson-Ray agency, addressed the board and asked that they reconsider their decision to cancel the policy Mars Hill held with his company. The board decided to retain their present policy with the Wright Agency, but invited Griffin to bid on the insurance policy when the present agreement expires.

Fire Chief and Alderman Gordon Randolph reported that the town's new fire truck should be ready for service by December. The truck is presently being outfitted with fire fighting equipment. Randolph also reported that the department has purchased six monitors with funds provided by the General Assembly.

Microswitch of Mars Hill has donated a house on its property to be used for training drills by the Mars Hill and Marshall fire departments.

The board also gave approval to the budget for the town sewer system. The \$2.4 million project is to be funded by a \$325,000 bond issue Mars Hill voters approved in August and by grants and loans from the Farmers Home Loan Administration totaling \$2.4 million. Mars Hill College has also awarded the project \$165,000.

Boone reported that engineers are now in the process of locating sites for pump-

ing stations. Mars Hill must purchase easements for each of the pumping stations.

The aldermen also approved allowing town employee JoAnn Kice sick leave and hired Ron Martin to conduct electrical inspections within the town.

Boone asked the aldermen to approve construction of a gravel parking lot for town vehicles between the fire station and the Mars Theatre. The suggestion met with little support. The board agreed to consider the proposal again at a later date.

C. N. Willis also came before the board with a proposal to extend his trailer park on Parkway View to accommodate an additional 11 trailers. The board referred the proposal to the town zoning board. Mayor Bill Powell told Willis, "The proposal must go before the zoning board first, after which the town board will take it under

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Carl Stewart Tours County

Carl Stewart, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, toured Madison County last Friday. The Gaston County Democrat met with Madison Countians at the courthouse in Marshall and toured a tobacco farm and the Marshall and Walnut Elementary schools.

Stewart recently completed a two-year term on the N. C. Department of Transportation board. Before serving on the DOT board, Stewart served two terms as speaker of the N. C. House of Representatives.

Stewart called for the General Assembly to put a bond referendum for school construction and waste water treatment facilities on the 1984 ballot. The candidate told The News Record, "The state's financial condition is sound. We can't afford to wait until interest rates go down to authorize school construction.

I would urge the General Assembly to pass the enabling legislation during next year's session so that the voters can decide the issue in the 1984 election."

Stewart said the recently enacted half-cent sales tax increase will not provide enough revenue to construct the number of schools that are needed. "The General Assembly hasn't gone far enough. We've got to realize that, even with the additional half-cent tax, smaller counties cannot afford to build their own schools.

During his tour of Madison County, Stewart visited Marshall Elementary School and spoke with school principal Fred Haynie. After inspecting the main building of the island school, Stewart said, "This is a school that needs to be replaced. It will be more economical to start over than

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Hot Springs Bans Public Drinking

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen met Monday night and approved an ordinance prohibiting public drinking of alcoholic beverages. The ordinance came in response to residents' complaints and at

the motion of alderman Gene Autrey.

The ordinance prohibits the consumption or display of any alcoholic beverage on the public streets of Hot Springs. The ordinance also prohibits

beer drinking in public.

The ordinance calls for a \$50 fine or imprisonment for up to 30 days for violations.

The board unanimously approved the ordinance.

Meadow Fork Parents To Face Charges

The parents of children attending a private school in the Meadow Fork section have been charged with violations of the Compulsory School Attendance Law. The charges were instituted at the request

of the Madison County Board of Education. A hearing on the charges is scheduled for Wednesday in Madison County District Court.

Those charged with the violations are Kelly Mount,

Sr., Gail Mount, Stan McElroy, Connie McElroy, Kyle Waitt, Debbie Waitt, Juanita Keener, Ralph Keener and Kiana Gidcomb. They are represented by Mars Hill attorney Bruce Briggs.

County's One-Room School Houses Are Remembered

By ELIZABETH SQUIRE

At one time there were about 67 one-room schools in Madison County — Zeno Ponder, who went to one of them, and Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools, agree about that.

Many of those schools were built right after the turn of the century in the term of Gov. Charles Brantley Aycock, who led a movement to build schools at a time when the average school term in North Carolina was four months and many districts had no schools at all. Aycock's goal, says Ponder, was to have a school within a two-mile walk of every pupil. Mr. Ponder's own father went to the old Antioch School for six weeks in all — just long enough to learn to read and write. When Aycock became governor, more than one fifth of the state's population could not read or write.

The land for Pleasant View School was donated by the family of Jeter Ramsey, Mr. Ramsey recalls. The school now stands empty in the far end of the Rector's Corner area, southeast of Marshall, and belongs to former student Ernest Snelson.

The school launched two Madison County sheriffs, including the present one; two board of education chairmen (both E.Y. and Zeno Ponder have held that position); a tax supervisor, Ernest Snelson; the mother of two doc-



JETER RAMSEY, one of the ex-students of the one-room Pleasant View School, recalls that his family gave the land for the building.

tors, Pauline Ditmore; a highway commissioner, Zeno Ponder again, and many others.

The last teacher before the school was closed in the late 1920's was Orla Ponder (Mrs. E.Y.) She remembers there were five grades and 22 students. Some of the students believe there were more of them. Perhaps it just seemed like more. Each morning Mrs. Ponder rang a hand bell and the students lined up and marched in. A wood stove heated the school and the students kept it stoked.

The boys brought in the wood and the girls brought in the kindling, recalls Marie Clark. A favorite job was bringing in the drinking water in a two-gallon bucket. The bucket had a dipper and each student brought his or her own cup. The students also brought their own lunches from home.

Lunch often came in a four-pound lard bucket, recalls Jeter Ramsey, and consisted of whatever was growing and being preserved on the farm.

Mr. Ramsey and Frances Ramsey (not his wife) are the two oldest living ex-students of the school, he believes. He was there at the dramatic moment when Jesse James Bailey, later to become sheriff of Madison, then Hancock County, had a knife-fight with Wiley



THE LAST CLASS at the Pleasant View School, taught by Mrs. E. Y. Ponder. Who do you recognize?

Casada. Later students like Ponder heard that story recounted, and also how Bailey quickly hoped a train for Arkansas and didn't come back for 10 years. (He was from the Bailey family which gave its name to Bailey's Bend on the French Broad.)

When Bailey came back he learned telegraph