



# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

82nd Year No. 44

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

WEDNESDAY, November 2, 1983

15¢ Per Copy

## Ponder: Marshall Will Attract Industries

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall is on the threshold of a period of development according to Mayor Lawrence Ponder. "Our new sewer system, the industrial park and the new four-lane highway all contribute to making Marshall attractive to industry," Ponder said he hopes to see the work of his administration bear fruit soon during a telephone interview Monday night.

Asked why he is seeking a fourth term as Marshall's mayor, Ponder said, "I've got a lot of effort tied up in trying to improve the situation in Marshall and I'd like to see the job through. Projects like the industrial park and the new sewer system were started eight years ago. When you work for something like this for so long, it almost becomes a part of you. Yancey County has gotten some industry lately and Marshall is the closest town to Asheville that's still under-developed. If we can continue to work with the N.C. Dept. of Commerce, I'm sure industries will start looking our way."

Ponder said that his years working with his father, Lorado Ponder, has prepared him for the task of attracting new industries to Marshall. During the elder Ponder's tenure as Marshall mayor, Ponder said, the town was able to attract Deringer Manufacturing.

The mayor defended the decision to cut both police and garbage collection in the past two years, saying that the town is unable to afford either police or additional trash collection. The Marshall police force, Ponder said, was built up with federal funding. When the grants funding the police were cut, the town had no choice but to cut the force. "I wish we had the money to put a policeman on every corner, but the most pressing need facing the town is capital improvements to the water and sewer system."

Ponder said the sewer system currently being installed is the highlight of his past term as mayor. He said the next major challenge facing Marshall is in making improvements to the water

distribution system. "Once the sewer project is completed, we will have to work as quick as we can to get a new water distribution system to provide people with clean water and cut the town's power bill."

Following a new water system, attracting new industry is the mayor's top priority. He told The News Record, "For too many years, we have been exporting our most precious natural resource — our young people. This is a trend that we must work to stop by bringing in new industries and jobs."

Ponder said that Marshall needs a new athletic field within the town because the town's present field on Blannerhassett Island is too often overcrowded. He added that he has been discussing a grant with the Soil Conservation Service to develop a new field. Regarding the town's recreation center, Ponder said that the building is in need of repairs if it is to be used to its full potential. The mayor said that the roof needs repairs and

(Continued on Page 10)



THE NINE MADISON COUNTY and Lawrence Cutshaw. (right to residents who attended the Gover- left, middle row) Kimberly Willis, nor's Statewide Volunteer Awards Julia M. Young, Lucretia Giffin, and Ceremony in Asheville Saturday, Vanda Cook; (right to left, back row, October 22, posed for a picture with beside Mrs. Hunt) Rev. George A. Governor and Mrs. James B. Hunt, Moore and Charles Tolley. Not Jr. They are (right to left, front row) shown are honored volunteers Clate Nancy Anderson, Thelma Ponder, Grindstaff and Judy Majors.

## Powell: No Annexation In Near Future

Mars Hill will expand in the coming years, but Mars Hill mayor Bill Powell says he does not foresee the town annexing any property in the next two years. "Annexation is too expensive. It requires a lot of advance planning in order to pay for itself. Right now, there's no area outside the town that could do that. Providing services is expensive and you have to have the tax base to make it worthwhile."

Powell's comments came during an interview with The News Record Monday night in the Mars Hill Town Hall. Powell is seeking his tenth term as mayor of Mars Hill in next week's municipal election.

Asked his reasons for seeking a tenth term, Powell said, "The basic reason I'm seeking re-election is to get the sewer system completed as soon and as painlessly as possible, with the least disturbance to the town." Powell led the campaign to approve a sewer bond issue to finance construction of the new system. Mars Hill voters approved the bond issue during an August referendum.



BILL POWELL

Speaking of future expansion, Powell said that he expects that the town will continue to expand, with the next addition being toward U. S. 19-23 and north toward Burnsville.

Powell said that he hopes to expand the town's summer recreation program at the Mars Hill Recreation Center. "It's used all summer and we hope to expand its usage in the future. Many of our people use

(Continued on Page 7)

## Sewer Project On Schedule

Work on the Marshall sewer project is proceeding according to schedule according to Bill Lapsley, the engineer on the project. Lapsley came to Marshall last week to inspect work on the project and to clear up some questions residents have asked concerning work on the Rollins portion of the project.

Lapsley told The News Record, "We're actually ahead of schedule at this point. The Walnut Creek section was a disaster, but the contractor has worked faster than we had thought he could. I'm satisfied that they will be through with the Walnut Creek portion by Thanksgiving." The project calls for new sewer lines to be installed along Walnut Creek up to a point adjacent to the Marshall

Housing Authority.

Lapsley also cleared up questions regarding the installation of sewer lines to the Rollins section. The engineer said that the project calls for a two-inch force main line from a pumping station in Rollins to the treatment plant in Marshall. Residents have questioned town officials on the reason such a small pipe was being used when the service line being installed in the Rollins and Hayes Run sections was an eight-inch line. Lapsley explained that the smaller line would be adequate to serve Rollins Hayes Run and the industrial park because the pumping station located at the north end of Rollins has two pumps that will pulverize waste and feed

it into the smaller line at the rate of 35 gallons per minute each.

The two pumps to be installed in the Rollins station are "more than adequate" to meet the needs of the community according to Lapsley. Should expansion require, he added, the town would only need to increase the size of the pumps.

Work on the pumping station is continuing, with workers drilling a 14-foot hole into which the pumps will be installed. Lapsley said that he expects the contractor, Taylor and Murphy Construction Co., to add a second crew on the project next week. The second crew will begin work in the Rollins section.

The lines installed on Walnut Creek will be hooked

into the system within the next few weeks, he added. In order to connect the new lines with the treatment plant on Blannerhassett Island, it will be necessary for the crews to cut through the railroad tracks owned by Norfolk Southern Railway. The town had obtained permission for the cut which will close the main line to rail traffic between Asheville and Knoxville for up to eight hours. Lapsley said the cut in rail service will be made sometime this week.

Lapsley also said that temporary paving of the section of U. S. 25-70 torn up by the project will be made during the coming week. He added that the paving will be a temporary measure until spring when it will be repaved.

## Marshall Man Charged In Murder

A Marshall man was arrested at his home in the Panhandle section Thursday and charged with murder in connection with the shooting death of an Alabama man.

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder reported that Haven Payne, 41, of Route 2, Marshall was arrested and charged with murder for allegedly shooting Billy Joe Robinson, 43, of Huntsville, Ala. Payne said the shooting occurred after Payne found Robinson and Ronald Ralph Simpson of Tulsa, Okla. trespassing in Payne's deserted homeplace.

According to Sheriff Ponder, Payne found the two

men in the abandoned home at about 8:15 p.m. Thursday. Payne told the two men to leave the house and went inside to investigate. He then came out of the house and fired a shot at a 45 degree angle down the road.

Robinson was later found fatally wounded. He was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville by a unit of the Madison County EMS where he died shortly after arrival.

Ponder said that he and deputy Frank Ogle arrested Payne at his home. Payne was later released after posting a \$10,000 bond ordered by District Court judge Robert Lacey.

## Hoffman: New Ideas Needed

Jeanne Hoffman, a candidate for mayor of Mars Hill, says the town needs a long-range plan for future growth. Her comments came during an interview conducted in The News Record office last week. "We desperately need a long-range plan, keeping both our zoning and enforcement codes as we attract small industry," Hoffman said, "We need to learn from the experiences of other towns. Boone was developed haphazardly, for example, would hate to see that happen in Mars Hill."

The candidate foresees development taking place in Mars Hill as the town expands its present limits. "Right now, we don't have industry because we don't have the land industry needs. We've got the people and I think that small industry will come to the Mars Hill area sometime in the near future."

Hoffman was quick to add that she is not running against the present mayor. "I'm not running a negative campaign. I don't want to run against anything. I just want to offer people a new approach to the problems we face."

Hoffman said she favors cooperation, both between Mars Hill and Marshall and between the town and college, and would work to encourage both. "I don't think we do enough cooperatively. Cooperation is necessary, because the time has past where we could go it alone."

Why should each town have to operate its own backhoe? There are all kinds of ways we can get together. Mars Hill and Mars Hill College are inseparable. Somehow, we need to better coordinate activities between the town and college for the benefit of both."

Hoffman said she would also

(Continued on Page 6)

## Sexton Calls For New Attitudes

Marshall needs a new cooperative attitude according to Charlie Sexton, a candidate for the Marshall Board of Aldermen in next week's municipal elections. Sexton made his comments during an interview with The News Record last week.

"I definitely feel like we need to get the people involved in the operation of the town, I don't know all the answers. The buck would stop with me, but if I don't know the answer, I'd find the answer."

Sexton said he decided to run for the town board at the urging of others. He had previously worked for the town as a backhoe operator and water system maintainer. Referring to his past experience, Sexton said, "I think I can be an asset to the town due to my knowledge of water works and law enforcement. I hold two state certificates in waste water collection systems and I've been in water services off and on for the past 15 years. I also have a

law enforcement background, having worked for the Asheville Police Dept. for ten years."

While employed by the town, Sexton said, he made many suggestions concerning the water system that the town officials ignored. "What I wanted to do was set up a preventive maintenance program. If we had started five or ten years ago, we wouldn't have the problems we have today. You can't blame the town employees because they are

only doing what they are told to do. I suggested they go to other towns and see how they operate."

While calling for a restoration of twice-weekly garbage collection, Sexton said he opposes a joint operation with Mars Hill. He said a single truck shared by the two towns would not be sufficient. "I think the town should stand on its own two feet," he said.

Sexton also called for Marshall merchants to organize a

(Continued on Page 8)

## Filiss Enters Guilty Plea

Lionel Filiss entered a guilty plea to charges of manufacturing a controlled substance during last week's session of Superior Court. Filiss had been charged with growing 609 plants confiscated in an August raid. Judge Hollis Owen sentenced Filiss to five years in prison, suspending the active jail sentence on condition that Filiss perform 2,000 hours of community service in the next five years. Filiss was also fined \$3,500 and placed on supervised probation for five years. Filiss' community service will be supervised by probation officer Roger Haynie.

In another case relating to marijuana, a jury found Michael Metcalf not guilty of manufacturing the controlled substance.

The court continued until the Nov. 28 session of Superior Court, charges of manufacturing a controlled substance against Joe Balding, William Cutshall, Jr., Auvery Fender and Vardon Cody. Fender is also charged with possession with intent to sell controlled substances. The charges were also continued until the Nov. 28 session.

The court accepted a voluntary dismissal of charges of damages to property against Ben L. Gahagan.

Carrie Lee Shade was found guilty of a misdemeanor charge of food stamp fraud. She received a suspended 18-month sentence, five years' supervised probation and was ordered to make \$2100 in reimbursement. Similar charges against Otis Shade were dismissed.

J. H. Bise entered a guilty plea to a charge of false pretense and received a suspended three-year sentence and was ordered to make \$350 in restitution payments. William Langley was also found guilty of the same charge and was ordered to make \$720 in restitution.

Charges of receiving stolen property against Spencer Mooney were continued until the Nov. 28 session of Superior Court.

## Niles: Marshall Need Businessman

Marshall needs a businesslike approach to government and police force, according to Ed Niles, a candidate for the town's board of aldermen. Niles made his comments during an interview with The News Record last week.

"I think we need a businessman in town government," he said. "I think people should know what the town

owes and what is coming in." Niles, the former operator of Roberts' Pharmacy in Marshall, was the 1st candidate to enter the race in Marshall. He is seeking election to the board for the first time. He had previously served a year on the board, filling out the term of a board member that resigned. He said that he has lived in Marshall for the past 27 years.

"I'm not mad at anyone. I just don't think the town is being operated in a businesslike manner."

Niles also called for the re-establishment of a full-time police force in the town. "I'd like to see the police department go back to the town. It may not be necessary during the daytime, but at least at night. I also think we need to have garbage pickup twice a

week instead of once. It would also help if the streets were washed occasionally to keep down the dust."

Niles said, "I feel like we have a lot of people in town who have good ideas we could implement to make Marshall a better place." Niles said he favors the suggestions offered by the TVA Town Lift program. "If we don't take hold

(Continued on Page 5)

## Dodson: Sewer Project Will Bring Jobs

John Dodson wants to see the sewer project completed so that Marshall can attract new industries. Dodson told The News Record that he is running for a second term as town alderman so that he can see the project through to its completion.

"We also need to replace our leaking water lines sometime

in the near future. The TVA is working with us to stop the leaks, but that's not the entire answer," the first term alderman told The News Record on Monday.

Dodson also said that Marshall cannot afford to fund a town police force at this time.

"The town can't stand a \$20,000 police department on

its own. I think we have a pretty good police department now. The crime rate doesn't seem to have gone up over the past two years." He said that if federal and state grants were available to fund the police force, that he would favor re-establishing the town force.

The first term board

member foresees industry coming to Marshall in the coming years. "We recently got sewer and water lines out to the industrial park. When I was in Raleigh last month, we met with officials from the Department of Commerce. They told us that in the next two years, we'd see things coming our way. They sound-

ed very promising."

Dodson said that the town would proceed with recommended improvements to Town Hall and the Water Dept. building in the spring. He said he supports the Town Lift plan for Marshall and that he and his brother, Doug, would make suggestions in- (Continued on Page 10)