



Marshall Students Take Second In National History Day Contest



HEATHER STREPPA, left, and MARIA WISE, seventh grade students at Marshall Elementary School, won second place honors in the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland last Saturday. Story on Page 3.

Marshall Board Approves Budget Water, Sewer Deficit at \$50,000

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Marshall Board of Aldermen held a meeting with the town's accountant last week to discuss the town's 1985 operating budget. The aldermen approved a \$224,147 budget, but the big story to come from the meeting was the revelation that the town's water and sewer system operated at a deficit of \$50,481 in the current year.

Wednesday's special called meeting was held to confer with Brad Pipinger, an accountant with the Asheville firm of J. Donald Williams. Pipinger helped prepare the proposed budget. Several members of the board asked for the meeting so that provisions of the budget could be explained. The aldermen also approved several changes to the original budget estimate presented at their June 4

meeting. Pipinger explained that it was necessary to trim some \$3,000 from the 'sales and services' income figure. Pipinger also revealed that the town has \$13,900 in Powell Bill funds for street repairs still unspent from the current year's budget. The unspent funds do not appear in the town's revenue estimates, Pipinger said, because the funds were accounted for in last year's budget. The town's sewer project is also not included in the budget, Pipinger said, because it was set up earlier as an ongoing project.

In explaining the town's water and sewer budget, the accountant revealed that Marshall ran an operating deficit in the water and sewer services last year totalling \$50,481. The previous administration had budgeted water and sewer for \$117,000 and actual costs were \$117,267. Unfortunately for Marshall, however, collections for water and sewer service during the year were only \$66,786, accounting for most of the deficit.

The aldermen also approved several changes in expenditures. At the urging of Mayor Wild, the board approved a \$12,000 increase in the operating budget of the Marshall Police Dept.

Board member Ed Niles did not attend the Wednesday afternoon budget session. At the request of the board, Mayor Wild conferred with Niles by phone before the aldermen voted on the budget (Continued on Page 8)

TOWN OF MARSHALL BUDGET ORDINANCE, FY 1984-85 GENERAL FUND	
REVENUES ANTICIPATED	
Ad Valorem taxes.....	\$112,147
(based on a 96 percent collection rate, 85 cents per \$100 valuation. Total valuation: \$13,743,529.00)	
Other taxes.....	42,000
Intergovernmental.....	30,000
(unrestricted)	
Powell Bill.....	17,000
Licenses and permits.....	1,000
Investment Earnings.....	5,000
Sales and service.....	10,000
Miscellaneous.....	7,000
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$224,147
EXPENDITURES:	
Administration.....	\$45,000
Recreation.....	5,000
Tax.....	500
Police.....	32,000
Fire.....	6,000
Street.....	55,000
Sanitation.....	61,502
Debt Service.....	6,000
(principal retirement)	
Interest.....	26,145
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$224,147
MARSHALL WATER AND SEWER FUND	
OPERATING REVENUES.....	\$70,000
OPERATING EXPENSES.....	\$70,000

Board Studies Using Computer For Billing

By STEVE FERGUSON

The Marshall Board of Aldermen are reviewing a proposal to change the billing system to a computerized system for sending out tax, water, sewer and other bills by the town.

Cost of the service would be \$3,300, excluding cost of materials. Frank and Cecelia Ward of Marshall made the proposal, and asked the town for a five-year contract.

"Rebiling of taxes to those who are delinquent, with any late charges calculated, can be accomplished far more easily than is now possible," the Wards' report states. The system would also be used to send out town payroll checks.

"The price seems very reasonable for what they're offering," said Brad Pipinger, of J. Donald Williams, P.A.

Use of the new system would eliminate the manual system now used by the town.

Conservatives Dominate At Southern Baptist Convention

By DIANE WINSTON

The Raleigh News and Observer

KANSAS CITY, Mo.- The bloody battle that many Southern Baptists expected to materialize at their 1984 convention turned out to be a day morning session. At that bloodless blitzkrieg with the first meeting, when an effort to end funding for the Baptist steamrolling its way to Joint Committee on Public Affirmation over the fairs failed, moderates thought they had a chance of making their presence felt.

The convention had been pegged as potentially fractious for several reasons. Not only was the new president of the 14.1 million-member denomination to be elected, but there were also controversial issues on the agenda.

By the end of the first day, conservative candidates had been elected to the denomination's presidency and vice presidency. When the conven-

tion wound down on the third day, conservative resolutions opposing abortion on demand and discouraging the ordination of women had passed. Conservative strength did not rally until after the Tuesday morning session. At that bloodless blitzkrieg with the first meeting, when an effort to end funding for the Baptist steamrolling its way to Joint Committee on Public Affirmation over the fairs failed, moderates thought they had a chance of making their presence felt.

The Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based coalition of nine Baptist denominations that lobbies on church and state issues, has been a focus of conservative ire because of its opposition to President Reagan's school prayer amendment.

When the effort to end supporters of the Joint Com-

mittee claimed a modest victory. Some moderates even said it argued well for the upcoming discussion on ordination of women and the election of officers.

But others, including Dr. R.G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Repotrer, the North Carolina Baptist newspaper, speculated that by the afternoon session conservatives would bus in supporters to tilt the balance of votes.

Whether by intent or serendipity, the count of messengers, as delegates are called, rose 3,500 by the afternoon session.

A shift in sensibility also was apparent. A string of identifiably conservative men won election against moderate challengers. Winners included the Rev. Charles Stanley of Atlanta to the SBC presidency,

layman Hillary 'Zig' Ziglar of Dallas to the first vice presidency and Judge Paul Pressler of Houston to the powerful SBC Executive Committee.

Stanley, a former Moral Majority member, heads a large television and radio ministry. Ziglar, a motivational expert, spoke at the Pastors Convention, a pre-convention meeting of ministers that was attended mostly by conservatives. In his speech, he criticized the Joint Committee, liberal tendencies in Southern Baptist seminaries and the SBC Christian Life Commission, the denominational agency that handles social issues.

Pressler, along with the Rev. Paige Patterson of Dallas, is credited with being one of the architects of the

(Continued on Page 4)

Rollins Man Shoots, Kills Son

A 38-year old Marshall man was killed early Tuesday morning at his father's home on Rollins Rd. Landon Hensley was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville after being shot once in the stomach by his father, Zeb Hensley, 77, of

Rollins. Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder reported he received a call at about 3:15 a.m. Tuesday and responded to the Hensley home. Landon Hensley was found with a single gun (Continued on Page 8)

Richard Kingston: Harpsichord Maker Behind Marshall's Downtown Revitalization

By STEVE FERGUSON

Richard Kingston has been interested in harpsichords since he was three years old. Now he lives and works in Marshall and is one of the top four harpsichord makers in the United States.

Kingston, a former Army brat, is the kind of guy you'll talk to and then ask: "You're not from around here, are you?" He'll tell you he's not a native, but considers Marshall his home.

When he was three, his mother enrolled him in a record-a-month club, and one of the records they sent him was a musical conversation between two instruments, entitled "Said the Piano to the Harpsichord." It was one of his favorite records.

Being in an Army family, Kingston traveled all across the United States and Europe, but much of that time was spent in the South.

In college in Texas, his ambition was to become a certified public accountant. Kingston says he also had an interest in Baroque and Renaissance music during that time. Naturally, his interest in the harpsichord went hand-in-hand with that sort of music.

"I wanted to own one and couldn't afford one, so I decided to build one," Kingston says. At age 21, he built his first harpsichord, combining his knowledge of woodworking and metalworking in high school with his knowledge of music. Someone wanted to buy it, someone else wanted Kingston to build one for them, and his career was begun.

"I immediately went into harpsichord mak-



RICHARD KINGSTON

ing full-time, and I've been doing it ever since," Kingston says. "I never did take the CPA exam. The word got out about my work and I started

getting orders from universities and churches all over the country."

Operating out of Dallas, Richard Kingston Harpsichords had a big shop, seven employees and was producing 25 harpsichords per year. Kingston's 11-year-old business was well established, but it was giving him high blood pressure. And he hated the hot climate in Dallas.

He decided to move to the Western North Carolina mountains.

"I had fallen in love with this area," Kingston says. "It was sort of assumed (by business connections and friends) that I would relocate to the Research Triangle Park area in the eastern part of the state. I didn't want to do that. I wanted to live in the mountains."

Kingston says the dry climate of the mountain area was suitable to making his instrument, and he wanted to be near Asheville, since it is the economic center of the mountains.

Kingston and his wife, Diana, set out on an automobile journey through the WNC mountains, going from town to town, meeting people and seeing what they liked and disliked about different places. They liked Marshall, and decided that was where they were going to reopen their business.

But people Kingston met in Asheville were skeptical about his moving to this area.

"They pictured it being the wild, wild West down here," Kingston says.

However, he considers himself an adopted Marshall citizen now, has been here five and

one-half years, has a three-year-old son, Richard III, and Diana is expecting another child in a month. Kingston says Marshall is his permanent home, and he likes the townspeople.

"To put it in Madison County terminology," Kingston says, "they're a real bunch of fellers."

To try and improve his adopted home, Kingston is very active in the downtown redevelopment program in Marshall. He says he feels he owes something to the community.

"The main reason I've taken on the responsibility and I've taken so much time to devote to this downtown revitalization work, is that I regard it as community service," Kingston says. "Marshall's been good to us, the people have been good to us, and I feel like I owe something to the community."

Kingston's successful business certainly adds to the community. His shop on Main Street in Marshall now has 14 back orders and produces about ten harpsichords per year. After one is ordered, it takes nine to 12 months work before it is completed.

Local people do the instrument's cabinets, their stands and detailed painting work, while Kingston works mostly on tonal finishing and tune, the same way shops in the 18th Century were organized. No two harpsichord makers produce the same kind of instrument with regard to tone and touch, says Kingston.

"A good harpsichord maker knows what he wants his harpsichord to sound like before he cuts his first piece of wood," Kingston says.

(Continued on Page 8)