

November 14, 1984

Falcons Blast Madison, 56-7
Lions Win Again, 21-3

Community Calendar

Walnut Boosters Plan Sale

The Walnut Boosters Club will sponsor a flea market on Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Proceeds from the sales will be used to purchase drapes for the school. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Turkey Shoot In Spring Creek

The Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a turkey shoot on Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

Laurel VFD Turkey Shoot

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a turkey shoot on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. at the fire station.

Greater Ivy Thanksgiving Feast

The Greater Ivy Community Club is sponsoring a community Thanksgiving Dinner for all residents of Greater Ivy on Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. A gospel singing will follow the luncheon. All Greater Ivy residents are invited to bring along a covered dish and join in the old-fashioned Pilgrim-style dinner.

Folk Art Demonstrations

The Folk Art Center of the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild will present demonstrations throughout the month of November. Call 298-0792 for more information.

Burley Sales Begin Monday

The 1984 burley tobacco sales will get underway next Monday in North Carolina and Tennessee. Markets began receiving tobacco for auction last Friday in Asheville and Greeneville, Tenn.

The sales will begin Monday morning and continue through Nov. 21. All markets will be closed for Thanksgiving Day.

Sales will continue on Nov. 26 and will be held Mondays through Thursdays until Dec. 13.

Following the Christmas recess, sales will resume on January 7, 1985 and continue four days each week until the crop is sold.

Madison County Was Once A Part Of 'The State Of Buncombe'

By MITZI TESSIER

Behind the barrier of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains lay the highlands of Madison County, before 1776, uncharted and virtually unknown to anyone but the Cherokee Indians. It was the thrust of the new country in the 1780's, with land grants for Revolutionary War heroes and treaties with the Indians that brought settlers to the wilderness in search of homesites and privacy.

They were a rugged people, these first settlers, a people loyal to family, religion and the land. They came because they felt crowded by growing settlements in the east. They were not to escape the political system, however, for in 1792, the House of Commons of the newly formed state of North Carolina recognized a mountain constituency and created a new county to be known as Buncombe for the Revolutionary War hero, Edward Buncombe.

Buncombe County would encompass all the land west of the Blue Ridge, an area so large that it was dubbed "the state of Buncombe."

Buncombe County included what is known today as Madison County. In 1796, the state of Tennessee was formed, and the commission which established the boundary between the two states drew Madison County's northwestern border.

In the journal kept by the commissioners, they recounted pleasant baths in hot waters at Warm Springs, now Hot Springs, to "get clear of the fatigue of the tour."

The popularity of Warm Springs and the increase in travel between the western settlements and the south along the French Broad River caused talk of a new road by 1825. With funds from the House of Commons, the Buncombe Turnpike was opened in 1827, making profitable a stagecoach route from Paint Rock to Saluda, through Asheville.

A host of inns and road stands emerged along the route, operated by the Alexanders, the Barnetts, the Barnards, the Farnsworths and David Vanmce, the father of Civil War Gov. Zebulon Baird Vance. The names of these road stands still linger as names of communities in Madison County.

In addition to the fine, brightly-colored stagecoaches, it was not unusual in the fall for the turnpike to be crowded with stockmen, drovers from Tennessee and Kentucky, driving herds of hogs and fowl to markets further south.

When nightfall came, these men would seek shelter in a road stand and their hogs and turkeys would be penned up and fed great quantities of grain to keep them from becoming too lean on the long trip. Growing grain to feed these animals, sometimes 100,000 head at a time, became a supplementary income for the mountain men.

In 1851, the House of Commons ordered that there should be created a "county called Madison" to honor former President James Madison of Virginia. It was to be carved out of the northwestern part of Buncombe and a portion of Yancey County.

The county seat of Madison would be named for the late John Marshall, chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Two locations vied to be chosen: Jewell Hill, now known as Walnut, and Lapland, the boyhood home of Zebulon Vance. Court sessions were being held at Jewell Hill, but Vance may have settled the issue when he donated to the county 50 acres of land in Lapland and his friend, Samuel Chum, gave another 25 acres. In June of 1853, the matter was put to public vote and Lapland became the county seat, Marshall.

The population of Madison County in 1850 was 17,800. The railroad from Asheville was joined with one from Tennessee at the Paint Rock on January 25, 1858. It was then possible for those making the "corative waters" at Warm Springs to travel in the comfort of a railroad car. Stockmen could ship their animals by boxcar.

Good was the need for the overnight bedlivers. Good was the need for growing quantities of grain for feed. Madison County started in the 19th Century ready for a new kind of development.

ing Day. Sales will continue on Nov. 26 and will be held Mondays through Thursdays until Dec. 13.

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Fire Destroys Warehouse

Marshall, Mars Hill VFD Battle Blaze

By JAMES STORY and ROBERT KOENIG

A Friday night fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the Back Street warehouse owned by the Bowman Hardware Co. in Marshall. Firefighters from both the Marshall and Mars Hill Volunteer Fire Depts. were unable to prevent the fire from destroying the wooden building.

Although complete estimates were still unavailable, damages were believed to exceed \$100,000. The building was not insured.

The fire was discovered shortly after 9 p.m. Friday night and the Marshall VFD arrived within minutes of the alarm to find the building completely engulfed in flames. A call for assistance was sent on to Mars Hill and the M.H. VFD arrived shortly after 9:30 p.m.

Electric power to Main Street was shut off when flames from the warehouse ignited a power pole adjacent to the railroad tracks. Power was restored on Saturday morning.

The fire threatened to spread to nearby buildings, including the county jail. Prisoners watched the fire from their cells, but were not evacuated. The firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the warehouse, saving a small storage building next door.

Acting fire chiefs Bobby Allen and Frank Davis led the Marshall volunteers in the first serious action the company has faced since fire chief Jackie Davis began a six-month leave of absence. The former chief assisted by re-routing traffic on Main Street.

The blaze lit up the night sky for miles and smoke from the fire blocked out the full moon. Within minutes of the alarm, hundreds of Marshall residents gathered to watch the blaze. No injuries were reported.

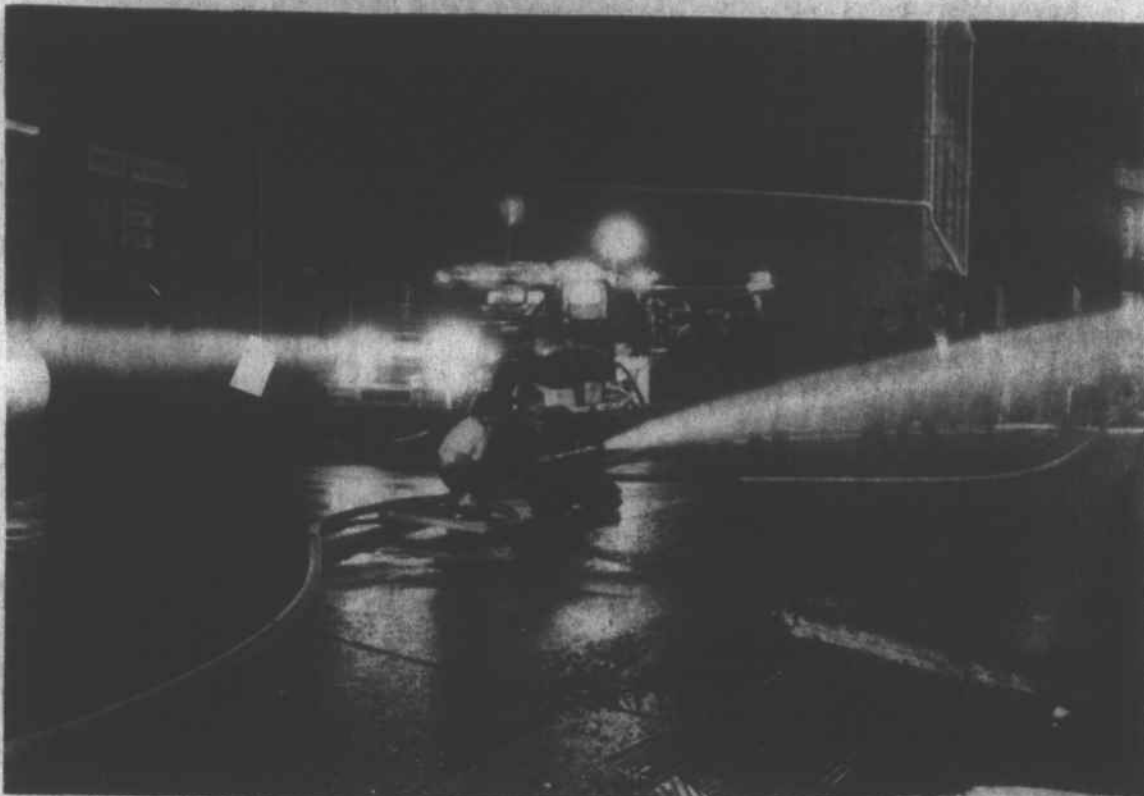
Among the items destroyed by the blaze were two pick-up trucks and a forklift truck which were stored in the warehouse. Also lost were an undetermined amount of lumber and building supplies.

An employee of Bowman's Hardware asked that customers who have made purchases on credit make an effort to pay their bills as soon as possible.

The fire continued to smolder throughout the weekend. Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control after about two hours. The Mars Hill VFD brought a water cannon to help douse the flames.

The fire was hot enough to melt plastic trash cans across the street from the warehouse. Storm windows in the rear of The News Record office were melted by the heat from the blaze.

The firefighters were also assisted by the Marshall Police Dept. and Mayor Betty Wild. The mayor stopped traffic on the south end of Main Street while the firemen battled the fire.



MARSHALL FIREMEN BATTLE BACK STREET BLAZE FRIDAY NIGHT. FIRE DESTROYED WAREHOUSE OWNED BY BOWMAN'S HARDWARE.



SMOLDERING RUBBLE IS ALL THAT REMAINS FOLLOWING FRIDAY NIGHT BLAZE

Baptists Open Convention

By DIANE WINSTON
The News and Observer

No major battles are on the agenda as North Carolina Baptists convene in Asheville this week, but some Baptists foresee sparks from activities that aren't on the schedule.

Several delegates, or "messengers," to the N.C. Baptist State Convention said they expected Norman A. Wiggins to be re-elected president and the Rev. Roy J. Smith to be elected executive general secretary-treasurer with virtually no opposition. And few expected divisive discussion on resolutions before the convention.

But two non-agenda items may disturb the expected calm.

One is a preconvention meeting, the Pastors' Conference, that will showcase several conservative leaders of the denomination. The other involves a recent political controversy surrounding the Christian Action League and its executive director, the Rev. Coy C. Privette.

The Pastors' Conference brings ministers together for inspiration and fellowship before the convention begins. The president of the Pastors' Conference, the Rev. B.J. Morris of Lincoln, has lined up as speakers Dr. Charles Stanley, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Adrian Rogers, a past president of the SBC; Samuel Orrin, a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina; and Wiggins.

All four are considered to be on the conservative end of the theological spectrum, though in his first year as convention president, Wiggins, the president of Campbell University,

has by all accounts been a moderating presence.

Conservatives say they are pleased with the selection of speakers, but moderates say they are wary.

"I think you've got to hand it to old B.J. Morris," Privette said. "That's a good slate and its going to bring in attendance."

Morris said the conference traditionally was held in a church at no cost. But, anticipating a large turnout for the speakers, he rented a downtown auditorium that seats 2,300 people.

"It's very unusual to have two men like Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers available at the same time," Morris said in a telephone interview. "I didn't think I could get them both."

But some Baptists say they are worried that the conference speakers represent only one facet of denominational life.

"I'm concerned that the people speaking at the Pastors' Conference are slanted toward one perspective—the independent fundamentalist group of the convention," said the Rev. William H. Puckett, Jr. of the Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh. Another local pastor said he wouldn't attend the conference because of a scheduling conflict. But Dr. Jerry Hayner of the Forest Hill Baptist Church said he doubted that he would go even if he could.

"I wouldn't support that agenda," Hayner said. "I feel the convention has got to search for more of a balance of viewpoints; and that the particular schedule of speakers is virtually all on one side with the exception of Dr. Wiggins, who by virtue of

being president is trying to be a moderating person."

Discussion of the Christian Action League is not on the convention agenda, but some Baptists say they wonder if it will be brought up under miscellaneous business.

"The only fly in the ointment has been the move to defund the Christian Action League," said the Rev. Robert M. Tenery of Morganton, a conservative leader and supporter of the league. "I think that would be folly. But the friends and trustees of the league are ready."

In August, a letter signed by four Baptist ministers including Morris of Lincoln was sent to people on the convention's mailing list asking them to support Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., in his re-election bid. Privette admitted purchasing the list from the convention and selling it to Helms' campaign.

Privette apologized for using the list for partisan political purposes. But some Baptists suggested cutting off the Baptists' funding of the league, and some remain unhappy about its politics and those of Privette. The league, which lobbies against such issues as liquor by the drink and pornography, receives about a quarter of its financial support from the convention.

"I'm disturbed about how blatantly right-wing Republican they've been in their publication and in Privette's slanting to blatantly right-wing candidates," said Puckett of the Millbrook Baptist Church. "I have some reservations about the convention funding those under those circumstances." (Continued on Page 2)