

# Commentary

# THE NEWS RECORD

## Editorial

### Marshall's Generosity Is Misguided

At the risk of sounding like Ebenezer Scrooge, we would suggest that Marshall's aldermen allowed their hearts to overrule fiscal responsibility Monday night when they voted to give \$750 to support the revived Marshall Christmas pageant.

Don't get us wrong- we believe that the pageant is a fine idea. We just don't think the town government should subsidize what has been a private sector effort to revive the pageant. We won't bring the constitutionality of their action into question, but it should be clear that Marshall cannot afford to make such a generous contribution.

With the town's water and sewer system continuing to run in the red, the town's general fund will be hard pressed to make up the difference needed to meet the town's bond obligations and keep the system functioning.

In the near future, Marshall will have to replace many miles of aging water lines, a project that will run into the millions. At Monday's meeting, the aldermen called for a meeting with officials of the Farmers Home Administration to seek relief from payments on the town's debt. How can Marshall plead financial hardship if the town can afford \$750 for a Christmas pageant?

Marshall's revived Christmas Pageant is the result of the hard work of many individuals. We would encourage all Madison Countians to join with us Friday and Saturday night to watch the production. We just wish that the pageant's organizers could have found another way to finance the project.

It's difficult to criticize the town's officials for their generosity in funding the pageant, but the future of the county seat's finances must take precedent over a Christmas pageant.

## To The Editor

### Madison H.S. Band Rates Thanks

Dear Editor:  
A special thanks to the Madison High School band. Our family was proud to attend the Tri-County Band Clinic at Mountain Heritage H.S. on Nov. 27. It was a great honor for our students to participate in this clinic under the direction of Ray Babelay, professor of music at Mars Hill College and Mike Robinson, director of the Asheville H.S. band.  
Our thanks go to Harry Overby for giving our students this opportunity. The Madison High Band seems to get little recognition compared to other activities in our county, but the

masterful job they did at Mountain Heritage H.S. was a great tribute to our county.

I want to thank the Madison High School Band because they represent one of the reasons that make us proud to be residents of Madison County.

This group of young people are a source of pride for our county and should be given more recognition for their hard work. They met the challenge and performed with precision. Thank you for a marvelous evening of excellent music.

Richard N. Wilde  
Marshall.

### Look For "Made In The U.S.A."

Dear Editor:  
"The (foreign) imports have just totally disrupted the (textile and apparel) industry, and it looks like it may disrupt North Carolina."

This quote, made by Charles Dunn, executive director of the North Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association, appeared in the Dec. 2 issue of The Asheville Citizen Times. The same article tells us that one-half of all women's and children's clothing sold in the U.S. are foreign-made. Shocking? Yes!

Let me share with you and your readers my own personal experience. Circumstances beyond my control necessitated my Christmas shopping through mail order catalogues or delegating that responsibility to members of my family.

As my purchases arrived through the mail, UPS or by personal delivery, I have been chagrined, shocked and horrified to find that approximately 75 percent of the gifts I will be giving this Christmas were manufactured outside of the U.S. and that I am aiding and abetting the crippling of our national textile and apparel industries.

Legislation passed by Congress

recently requires merchants to display "Made In USA" labels on American-made clothing beginning on Dec. 24. Let us look for those labels remembering that 35 textile plants in North Carolina have been forced to close since Oct. 1, leaving a total of 5,644 people unemployed.

We need look no further than Hot Springs and the closing of the Blue Ridge Shoe plant there to realize the impact on our economy.

I would urge readers to examine labels, remembering that those "Made in Taiwan" and "Made in Korea" labels may represent a cheaper purchase price, but may also mean inferior products. Can we afford to pay the price? Examine the evidence. Remember, your purchase of a foreign import means the loss of revenue to our American businesses and eventually may result in the loss of your job or your neighbor's job.

Let's make 1985 a year of label reading. Examine each purchase you plan from the standpoint of its origin and manufacture and buy only "Made In U.S.A."

Mattee B. Mashburn  
Marshall.

## Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GO UP

Electricians were busy Monday morning putting the Christmas lights up along Main Street in Marshall, adding to the Christmas spirit here. Many of the stores have decorated their windows with attractive displays and several homes and yards are aglow with Christmas lights and ornaments. Work is continuing on the manger scene on the courthouse lawn for the Christmas pageant which will be presented this Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m.

Santa Claus is beginning to be seen up and down Main Street during the afternoons, much to the delight of children and adults.

### WALNUT GROWS

I was impressed Sunday when I decided to drive over to Walnut and see where construction along U.S. 25-70 is progressing. I am anxious to see the project completed. It has been needed for many years.

Not only was I impressed with the highway, but it was the first time lately that I have driven around Walnut, which has

grown in recent months and years. I was especially impressed with the trailer park on Academy Street and the attractive homes in the area. I also drove on several streets and was amazed at the many new homes and beautiful yards.

As I approached the school building, it brought back fond memories of many years ago when I played my first high school baseball game on the field adjacent to the school. I also thought about the many exciting times I had in the school auditorium which we used for basketball.

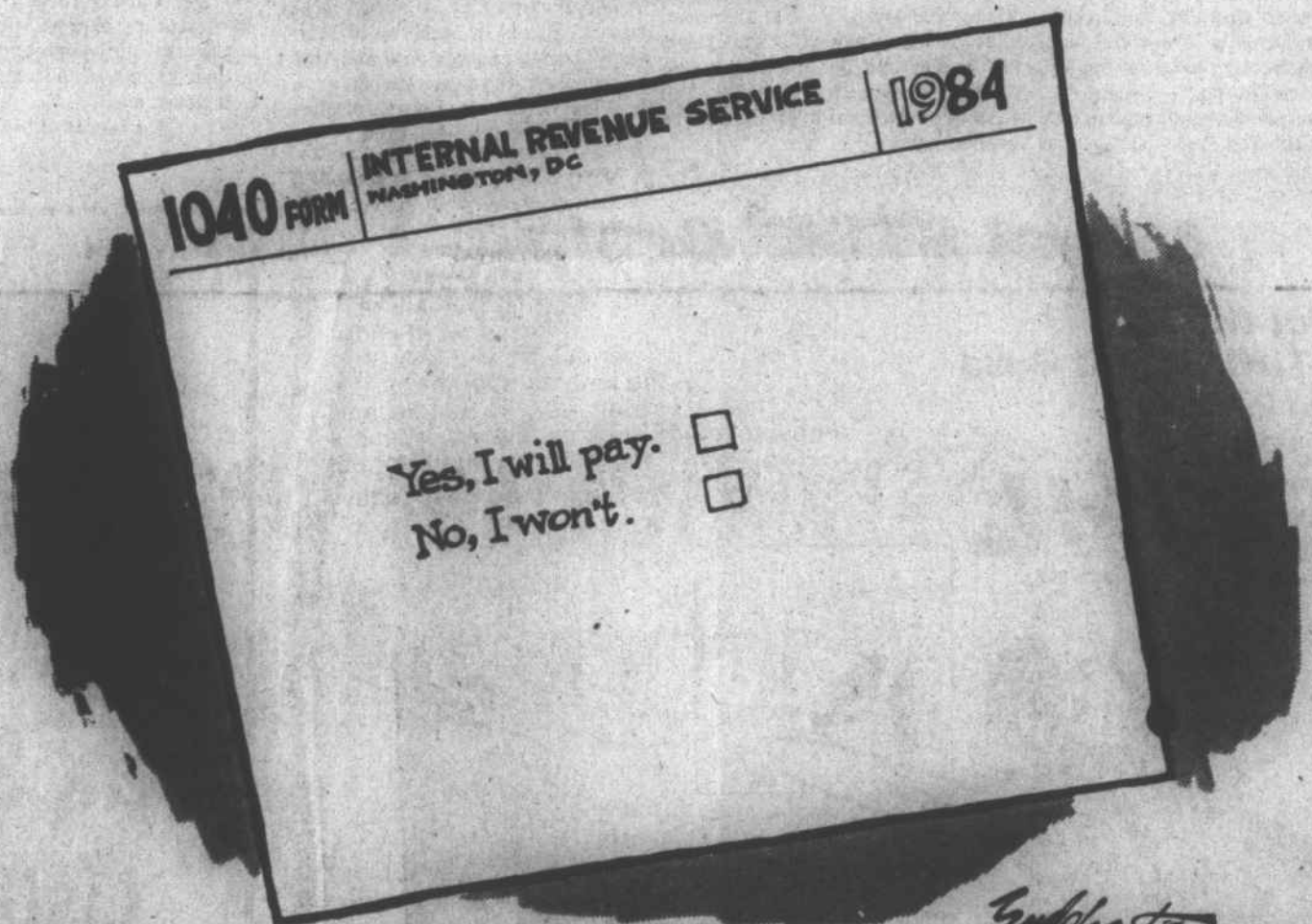
I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Walnut last Sunday and congratulate the fine people of Walnut on the pride they show in making their homes and yards so attractive.

### LAST REMINDER

This is the last issue prior to the Marshall Christmas pageant which will be presented here this Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. Much interest and hard work has been done to make this renewal of the pageant successful.

I urge you to make plans to attend this pageant on either or both nights. It should be a night to remember.

## TAX SIMPLIFICATION



## Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



For those who have lived long or seriously considered the subject, Christmas wears many different faces as it means various things to a variety of people.

Christmas is:  
-A time when the innocent eyes of excited children sparkle with anticipation and awe.

-A time to remember the Christmases of the deeply receded years, and those loved ones who were here then but are permanently absent now.

-A time of deep and warm sensitivity and generous caring for those less fortunate than ourselves.

-A time to send hurriedly purchased cards to some people only because they are present cards to us.

-A time to reestablish contact with a

friend about whom we have thought, and intended to write, all year—and never did.

-A time to sing off-key the joyful Christmas carols we have sung off-key for as long as we can remember.

-A time to cook, serve, eat, enjoy, and gain ten pounds on the best of traditional foods such as we have appreciated all of our lives.

-A time to visit grandparents and hear Grandma say, "My, how much you have grown! Look, you are almost as tall as I am, and I hardly recognized you!"

-A time to melt away to some place to be alone and let the tears wash the disappointment from your soul because Santa Claus passed you by without stopping to check your list.

-A time to reestablish contact with a

friend about whom we have thought, and intended to write, all year—and never did.

-A time to sing off-key the joyful Christmas carols we have sung off-key for as long as we can remember.

-A time to cook, serve, eat, enjoy, and gain ten pounds on the best of traditional foods such as we have appreciated all of our lives.

-A time to melt away to some place to be alone and let the tears wash the disappointment from your soul because Santa Claus passed you by without stopping to check your list.

-A time to reestablish contact with a

friend about whom we have thought, and intended to write, all year—and never did.

-A time to sing off-key the joyful Christmas carols we have sung off-key for as long as we can remember.

-A time to cook, serve, eat, enjoy, and gain ten pounds on the best of traditional foods such as we have appreciated all of our lives.

-A time to melt away to some place to be alone and let the tears wash the disappointment from your soul because Santa Claus passed you by without stopping to check your list.

-A time to reestablish contact with a

friend about whom we have thought, and intended to write, all year—and never did.

## The News Record

Serving The People Of Madison County Since 1901

P.O. Box 369 • Marshall, N.C. 28753 • (704)640-2741

Robert T. Koenig  
Cheryl W. Koenig  
Judy Brown  
Sandra C. Parker  
James L. "Pop" Story  
Dr. Joseph Sander  
Dorothy B. Shupe

Editor  
Advertising Mgr.  
Ad Representative  
Office Mgr.

Columnists

Published Weekly by The News-Record Publishing Co., Inc. USPS 383-640, Second Class Postage Paid at Marshall, N.C. 28753. Subscription Rates in Marshall and Surrounding Counties - 1 Year \$5.00. Outside Marshall and Surrounding Counties - 1 Year \$5.50. N.C. Residents add 4 1/2% Sales Tax.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The News Record, P.O. Box 369, Marshall, N.C. 28753.