

January 2, 1985

Mars Hill Girls Win

Story On Page 3

Community Calendar

School Bd. Meets Today

The Madison County Board of Education will meet this morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

County Commissioners Meet Monday

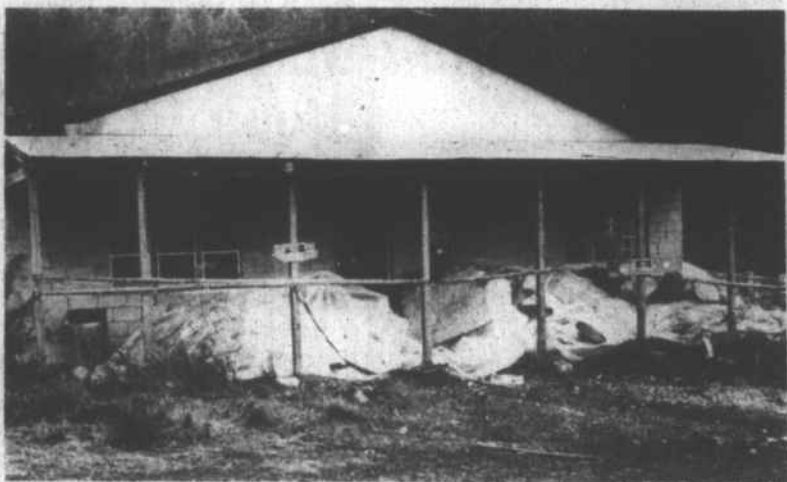
The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Jan. 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Hot Springs Board To Meet

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Mars Hill Board To Meet

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall in Mars Hill.



DISCOVERY OF 95 BARRELS CONTAINING DEADLY CYANIDE was one of the big stories of 1984. Sandy Mush site was cleaned by the Environmental Protection Agency.

THE NEWS RECORD

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SCENE FROM THE MARSHALL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. One of the highlights of 1984, pageant's revival brought hundreds to Main Street two weeks before Christmas Day.

1984: The Year In Review

JANUARY

The new year opened with bad news for Marshall when Bill Lapsley informed the town's aldermen that the \$1.2 million sewer project faced cost overruns totalling \$240,000. The overruns were the result of a miscalculation regarding the amount of stone construction crews would have to blast. The town would later receive additional funding from the Farmers Home Administration to cover the overruns.

Temperatures soared and plummeted in early January, with readings of six degrees on New Year's Day and highs in the mid-50's later in the week.

The North Carolina Jaycees called for debates between Gov. James B. Hunt and Sen. Jesse Helms and Frank Bordeaux reported that North Carolina farm income declined in 1983.

The month also saw incumbent state Reps. Liston B. Ramsey and Charles Beall and State Sens. Robert Swain and Dennis Winner file for re-election.

Marshall and the North Carolina Employment Security Commission reached agreement on a repayment schedule. The town was assessed \$37,000 for unemployment claims stemming from a HUD project.

Madison County and the Southern Railway reached a partial agreement regarding the railroad's property tax debt. The agreement brought a payment of \$53,776 for taxes owed from 1980 through 1983.

The Madison County Board of Education approved a \$16,449 contract to replace the roof on Hot Springs Elementary School and the town of Mars Hill purchased an \$8,000 computer to handle future water and sewer billing.

The French Broad Electric Membership Corp. announced a 12 percent rate increase for residential customers.

Late January saw a slew of candidates file for office, including Rep. James Clarke and District Court Judge Robert H. Lacey.

State DOT board member Zeno Ponder announced that a \$1.2 million project to improve sections of U.S. 25-70 had been approved. Weaverville awarded contracts for construction of water lines and more than 40 county residents formed a diverse committee to make recommendations to the county planning board. The committee met for several months before delivering a report which was published in full in The News Record.

Marshall and the DOT reached agreement regarding the repaving of streets torn up by the sewer project.

Madison County Community Development Clubs closed January out by calling for a study of the feasibility of a countywide telephone exchange. The council met in the spring with representatives of ConTel who said that converting to a toll-free system would prove costly.

FEBRUARY

February began with the announcement that the N.C. Highway Patrol would assign a trooper to Hot Springs. Hot



SANTA AND HIS ELVES took part in Christmas play at Marshall Elementary School last week.

Springs also received a part-time driver's license examiner.

Hot Springs police chief Leroy Johnson retired after 30 years on the job. The postal service began eliminating route numbers from Madison County addresses and the first cases involving the state's new Driving While Impaired law began coming to trial.

William Chandler of Walnut ran a brief campaign for the Democratic nomination for county register of deeds. Chandler entered the race on a Friday afternoon and withdrew on Monday morning, apparently after a weekend of fruitless campaigning.

Mars Hill Mayor Bill Powell was fined \$10,000 by the Wake County District Court after pleading guilty to five counts of violating state pharmacy laws. Powell's business, CMCP, Inc., was also fined \$40,000 for Medicaid fraud. Later in the year, the state's Board of Pharmacy suspended Powell's pharmacist's license.

The investigation into Powell's pharmacy practises was instituted as a result of complaints lodged by David George, the former director of the Madison Manor Nursing Home.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. opened February by formally announcing his candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat held by Sen. Jesse Helms. Former Congressman Bill Henton began a cam-

eback when he filed for election to his former seat in Congress. Mars Hill attorney Bruce Briggs announced his candidacy for the State Senate. Briggs later attempted to withdraw from the race and ran unsuccessfully for the state Superior Court in November.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical College presented the county commissioners with a proposal to open an adult education center in the county. The center, located in Marshall, is scheduled to open later this month.

Marshall Mayor Betty Wild and the town's aldermen heard complaints from residents regarding a traffic crackdown being conducted by the town's new policemen, Chris Bowman and Michael Beasley. Both officers resigned from the town force before the end of the year.

Marshall awaited a decision from the FmHA on additional funding for the town's sewer project. The USDA cut the quota for the 1984 crop of burley tobacco by 10 percent, reducing the average Madison County farmer's quota by about 160 pounds.

Hot Springs aldermen approved a resolution amending the town's pinball machine ordinance to allow operation on Sundays from 1 until 5 p.m. The News Record featured a front page story detailing the programs offered by Madison High School's vocational education department. The following week, we featured a story from The Greenville Sun on Pop Story.

Touring in Asheville, Rufus Edmisten promised to make education his "top priority" if elected governor. Edmisten was the leading vote getter in the Democratic primary and later defeated former Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox in a runoff.

February closed with the announcement that unemployment had increased across the state during January to 8.1 percent. Workers at the Melville Shoe Co. plant in Hot Springs prepared to join the list of the state's unemployed and were briefed by ESC officials regarding their options and rights.

MARCH

March brought the good news that Marshall had received approval for an additional \$200,000 grant from the Farmers Home Administration to complete the sewer project. In making the announcement, Mayor Betty Wild thanked Sens. Jesse Helms and John East for their assistance in obtaining the grant.

Marshall announced plans to apply for a community development block grant and A-B Tech unveiled plans for the new adult education center.

March also saw two Department of Transportation employees and an Asheville contractor indicted on charges of bid-rigging on the \$30 million contract to build U.S. 25-70 from Weaverville to Marshall. All three were later convicted of the charges.

Continued On Page 2