

January 16, 1985

Madison Students Tour Prison

—Story On Page 2

## Community Calendar

### Hot Springs VFD To Meet

The Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Dept. will hold a meeting for all members on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Hot Springs Town Hall. All members are asked to attend.

### Parenting Help Offered

The Hot Springs Health Program and the Blue Ridge Center will sponsor a series of parenting sessions to help parents cope with the problems of raising children. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. starting on Jan. 22 at the Marshall Senior Citizens Center on Long Branch Rd.

The eight-week course is open to all parents and prospective parents at no charge. For more information, contact Marian Plaut at 649-2367 or Becky Eller at 649-2112.

### GOP Committee Meets Thursday

The Madison County Republican Executive Committee will meet on Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison County Court House. Everyone is welcomed and urged to attend.

### Greater Ivy CD Club To Meet

The Greater Ivy Community Development Club will hold its monthly meeting on Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center in Beech Glen. Ray Sawyer of A-B Tech will be the guest speaker.

### Girl Scout Cookies Sale

Madison County Girl Scouts will begin their annual Cookie Sale on Friday. Orders for the cookies will be taken until Feb. 8, with delivery scheduled for March 6.

Proceeds from the cookie sales help provide service and training for girls

and purchases recreation equipment. The cookies are \$2 per box and are offered in six flavors.

If you are not contacted by a Girl Scout, you may order the cookies by contacting Betty Wild at Town Hall.

### Correction

In last week's story concerning the trial of Mars Hill police chief R.J. Cutshall, we reported that the police were using stickers on the doors of businesses in response to a series of break-ins in Mars Hill. The stickers

have actually been used for about a year and the break-ins were reported in surrounding areas. There have been no break-ins reported within the town limits.

The News Record regrets this error.

## Contel Plans Public Hearing

The Continental Telephone Co. of North Carolina (Contel) is planning a public hearing to discuss changes in telephone services with Madison County customers. The Jan. 28 meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the conference room at the county Dept. of Social Services offices in Marshall.

Contel vice president Turner Rogers said the meeting was called to familiarize Madison County telephone customers with changes in the telephone industry brought about by deregulation and increased competition. Contel requested a rate increase in October and also is seeking permission from the state Utilities Commission to institute a new usage-based local service rate which would

eliminate zone charges now paid by private-line rural customers.

Rogers said the Jan. 28 meeting will discuss these proposals as well as answer questions Contel customers may have regarding their service.

Tom Doyle, Contel's state telephone service manager, will attend the meeting along with Rogers and local Contel management. Rogers said that Contel president John Feaster will also attend the meeting if his schedule permits.

Rogers urged interested telephone customers to attend the Jan. 28 meeting, saying, "We look forward to this opportunity to meet with our customers to discuss matters of mutual concern or interest."

## County Jobless Rate Declines

Madison County unemployment declined in November according to figures released last week by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The latest figures indicate that the county's jobless rate stood at 9.9 percent during the month, down from 11 percent in October.

The county's percentage of unemployed workers decreased even though fewer Madison Countians were employed during the month.

Madison was one of 30 counties across the state that saw a decrease in joblessness during the month according to the ESC. Statewide, unemployment increased slightly during November, to seven percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate stood at 6.9 percent in November.

The ESC's figures show that unemployment declined although fewer Madison Countians were working in November than in the previous month. The decrease in the jobless rate is attributed to a decrease in the size of the labor force during the month.

In October, the ESC estimated that 570 Madison Countians were about work. The November report indicates

that 850 local residents are still without work, but that the total work force decreased from 8,850 in October to 8,610 workers in November.

The October ESC report states that 7,880 workers were employed, while November's report indicates 7,760 local residents are currently employed.

Unemployment increased in all three neighboring North Carolina counties in November, according to the ESC report. Buncombe County saw unemployment rise to 6.7 percent from 5.9 percent in the previous month. Yancey County joblessness rose from October's 8.7 percent to 10.1 percent in November. In Haywood County, joblessness climbed from October's 8.2 percent to 11.4 percent in November.

Tiny Tyrell County reported the state's highest jobless rate in November, 18.4 percent, while Orange County reported the lowest rate, three percent.

ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan said that manufacturing saw the sharpest increase in unemployment during November, while trades and government accounted for 34,300 new jobs during the period.

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE

MADISON  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
MARSHALL NC

28753 INCE 1901

WEDNESDAY, January 16, 1985

25

## Sewer Project Completed With Money To Spare

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall's Board of Aldermen held a marathon three and a half hour session Monday night in Town Hall. As has been the case at many of the late meetings, discussion of the town's sewer project occupied most of the time.

Bill Lapsley, engineer on the project, addressed the board and defended his firm's actions on the \$1.3 million project. Lapsley presented the aldermen with what he said were the final costs for the project.

The figures presented Monday night showed that Taylor and Murphy Construction Co., chief contractor on the project, completed their portion of the job \$94,746 under budget. Bilton Construction completed work on the treatment plant some \$12,185 over the budgeted \$180,000 while legal expenses exceeded the revised budget figures by almost \$3,000.

The good news presented Monday night was that \$10,000 budgeted for right-of-way purchases was unneeded, along with \$30,000 earmarked for contingent expenses.

The sewer project was originally budgeted for \$1,260,000. The budget was later revised to \$1,460,000 in 1984. Final costs of the project were \$1,376,151.01, resulting in a surplus of \$83,848.99.

Lapsley said the surplus may be used to provide sewer service to two areas not covered by the original project. Approval for the additional work will have to be obtained from the Farmers Home Administration, which provided funding for the project.

Lapsley reviewed the history of the project for the aldermen, saying, "We have been subjected to much criticism, both from the public and the press, for our handling of the project. I would like to set the record straight."

Lapsley said his firm, McGill, Lapsley Associates, has lost some \$22,000 on the project. Records indicate the engineering firm will be paid \$51,400 for its services, the maximum amount provided by the construction contract. The engineer said his firm's costs were actually \$66,800 and did not include \$6,796 in uncompensated expenses before the project received approval.

He added that the engineering firm helped the town receive an additional \$200,000 grant from the Farmers Home Administration and saved Marshall money by negotiating with the state Department of Transportation on the repaving of Walnut Creek Rd.

Lapsley concluded his report by telling the board members, "We have endeavored to look out for your interests for the past two and a half years. We have never shirked or abandoned our professional responsibility."

Although the sewer project is now essentially completed, town crews still must make a number of hookups to connect homes to the new system and complaints of some Marshall residents have not been addressed.

Vader Shelton came before the board asking for compensation for paying he had done near his Hill Street home to stabilize a wall. The

aldermen and engineer debated Shelton's request Monday night, but tabled a final decision in the matter.

The monthly financial statement released Monday night indicated that the town's water and sewer fund is nearly over budget with six months remaining in the current fiscal year.

Budgeted for \$70,000 in July based on estimated revenues, the water and sewer system has run up expenses totalling \$69,127 in the first six months of the year. Money to continue to operate the system will be taken from the general fund as needed.

The town had made two payments on the sewer bond totalling about \$38,000 with funds transferred from the general fund. Lapsley said Monday that those payments will be reimbursed by the Farmers Home Administration because the project was still under construction at the time the payments were made. Future bond payments, however, will have to be made from water and sewer revenues.

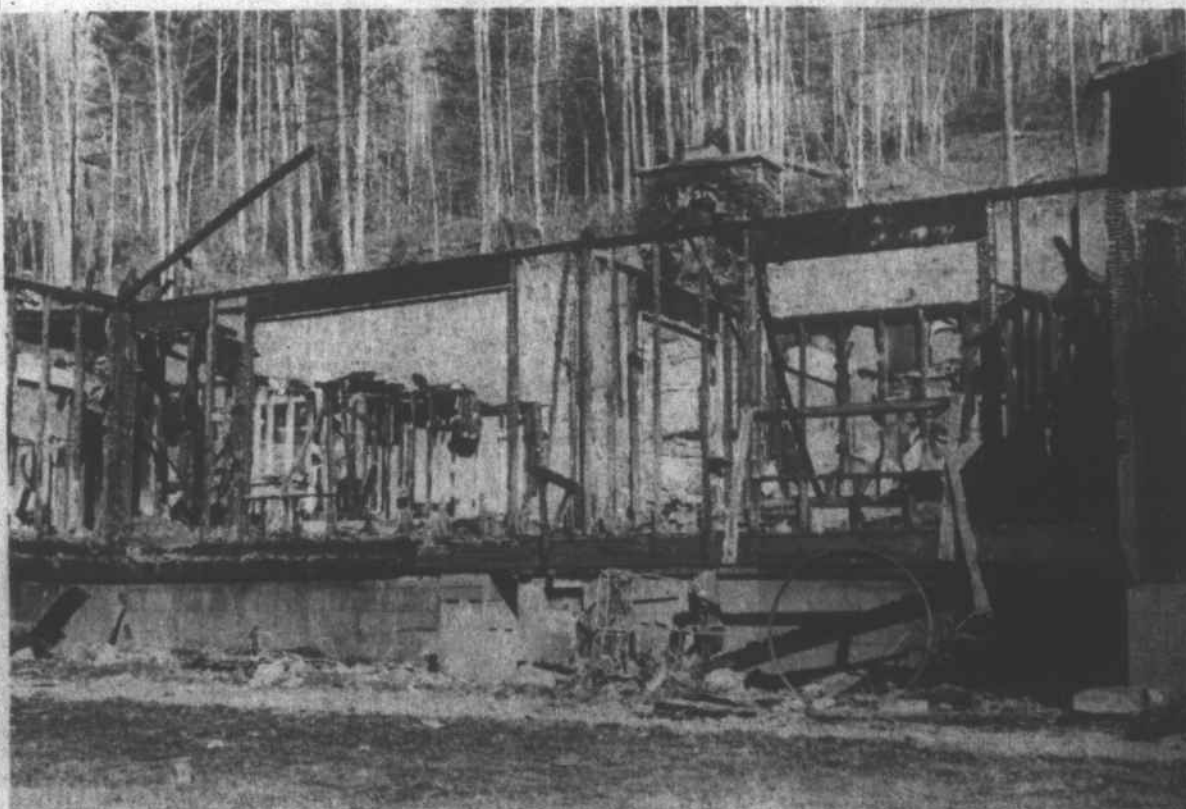
The bottom line of the general fund report stated that the town has spent

(Continued on Page 8)



### Fire Destroys Holt Home

SATURDAY NIGHT FIRE destroyed home in Mars Hill near California Creek Baptist Church. Fire was believed to have started in a faulty chimney.



## Grand Jury Indicts Five

The Madison County grand jury met in Marshall Monday morning and returned indictments against five defendants.

The grand jury indicted both Edd Young and Spencer Mooney on two counts of larceny in connection with the theft of food from the Upper Laurel Community Center and equipment from the Upper Laurel Baptist Church.

The grand jury also returned true bills against two men charged with breaking, entering and larceny. Both Danny McMahan and Robert Messer were charged in the theft of guns from a Spring Creek home.

Danny Cutshall was indicted on a charge of larceny in connection with the theft of stereo equipment from a Hot Springs home.

A jury of six men and six women began hearing testimony in the arson trial of David Junior Hensley. Testimony was heard from a State Bureau of Investigation agent who investigated a fire at the Soufield Apartments in Mars Hill. An earlier trial on the charge ended in a mistrial.

Superior Court Judge Robert D. Lewis is presiding over the trial, which was expected to continue on Tuesday.

## Jake Grigg Named CD President

Jake Grigg, the president of the Mountain Farm Credit Service, was elected as the president of the Western North Carolina Development Association at the organization's annual meeting last week in Asheville. Grigg succeeds former Congressman Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain, who has headed the 18-county organization for the past two years.

Taylor was honored during the meeting for his eight years of service to the organization. Before being elected president of the WNC Com-

munity Development Program, Taylor served as the organization's vice president for four terms. Taylor also served eight terms in the U.S. Congress as the 11th District representative.

Along with Grigg, F. Ed Broadwell, president of Clyde Savings and Loan Association, was elected as first vice president. E. Charles Dyson, vice president and general manager of the Carolina Power and Light Co., was elected as second vice president. Linda Ford of Enka and Jerry Sutton of

Franklin were elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Dr. Larry Stern of Mars Hill was elected to the organizations board of directors along with UNC-A chancellor David Brown, Allen Bush of Fletcher, Robert Marcus of Murphy, Asheville Mayor Larry McDevitt, Mac Morrow of Plagah Forest, Robert Peterson, Robert Price, Jim Sills, David Sisson of Leicester, Neal Stamey and former Western Carolina University Chancellor H.F. Robinson.

Along with the new board

members, Fred Conner of Avery County, Jerry Cole, E. Charles Dyson, John Erichson, Linda Ford and Richard Wynne of Buncombe County, William Parton of Burke County, Carol White of Cherokee County, Jake Grigg of Madison County, Patsy Ingham of Graham County, Clayton Davis of Haywood County and William McKay of Henderson County were re-elected to the board. Ruth Gregory of Marshall also serves as a director of the 25-year old rural development program.