

July 10, 1985

## Community Calendar

### Marshall Masons To Meet

The French Broad Masonic Lodge No. 292 AF&AM will hold an emergent communication on July 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Marshall for the purpose of the entered apprentice degree.

### Former Sheriff J. Hubert Davis Dies In Michigan

Former Madison County Sheriff James Hubert Davis died on July 4 in a River Rouge, Mich. hospital at the age of 80. A native of Walnut, Davis had made his home in River Rouge for the past several years.

A former Southern Railway detective, Davis served as Madison County Sheriff until defeated in the 1950 election by E.Y. Ponder. A Republican, Davis claimed a narrow victory in the race and refused to vacate his office for nearly a year following the disputed election. A North Carolina Supreme Court decision written in 1951 by the late Senator Sam J. Ervin declared Ponder the winner of the

election.

A native of Walnut, Davis was the son of the late William Garfield and Susie Rice Davis.

Funeral services were held in River Rouge on Saturday.

Sheriff Davis is survived by his wife, Foy M. Davis; three daughters, Hilda Davis of River Rouge, Clara Davis of the home and Sue Thacker of Birdsboro, Pa.; a son, Charles Davis of Lincoln Park, Mich.; two sisters, Wanda Roberts of Etowah and Eileen Chandler of Walnut; three brothers, John and Jack Davis of Walnut and Ted Davis of Etowah; and 11 grandchildren.

### Mars Hill Police Nab Break-In Suspect

Mars Hill police apprehended a suspect in the early morning hours of June 29 and charged him in connection with the break-in at the Big D service station on Big Branch Rd.

Travis Reggie Rowell, 27, of Waynesville was arrested on Hwy. 213 at about 3 a.m. following the break-in. Rowell was arrested and charged by Mars Hill police officer Rick Haynes.

At the time of the arrest, police report recovering some \$600 in coins

and small bills believed to have been taken in the robbery.

Rowell was charged with breaking, entering and larceny, possession of a stolen weapon, driving while impaired, driving with license revoked, and carrying a concealed weapon.

Rowell remained in custody in the Madison County Jail until Saturday, when a sheriff's department spokesman reports he was transferred to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh for observation.

### Correction

Randy Hensley, who lives near Walnut, is the newest member of the Marshall police force. He has been a member of the auxiliary police force since November.

Hensley is a member of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Company and did publicity for the Rodeo this year, contacting radio stations and putting posters as far away as Yancey County. He has previously been employed as a custodian for the housing authority. He is a graduate of Madison High School, and has received training as a fire fighter.

The News Record said in error that another man had been hired for the position in the police department. We regret the error.

### Sewer Project

#### On Schedule

Mars Hill's sewer project is "or maybe even slightly ahead" of schedule, reports town manager Darhyl Boone.

Sewer lines have been laid in District III, which consists of the northwestern part of town, and construction is underway on a waste treatment plant near the point where Gabriel's Creek crosses under Route 213 (Cascade St.). Lines have also been laid in the South Main St. section. Cooper Construction is the contractor.

### School Board Meets

Bert King, architect for classroom renovation at Mars Hill elementary school, was asked by the Madison County Board of Education last Wednesday to check with state school officials on requirements for new exits from the school.

In a relatively short and uneventful meeting, the Board of Education also:

-Promoted school-bus garage employe Sidney Peek from Mechanic 1 to Mechanic 2.

-Heard a report from Austin Simpson that the county school system's accreditation by the Southern Education Assn. has been renewed for another year.

-Approved a report from Nancy Allen, principal of Marshall primary school, on the school's 1985-86 student handbook, but tabled a report from Frederick Anderson, principal of Mars Hill elementary school, on attendance policy. The board will consider the policy at its next meeting.

-Received a lengthy report comparing county schools' fuel costs for the 1984-85 school year with those of the 1980-81 school year.

-Asked board attorney Larry Leake to prepare a resolution on the Fair Labor Act and private vehicle usage, to be considered at the board's next meeting.

# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Marshall Considers Water Rate Hike

By ROBERT KOENIG

After learning that the town budget ran a deficit of more than \$14,000 in the fiscal year which ended on June 30, Marshall aldermen considered increasing charges for water service during their monthly meeting Monday night.

The town's monthly financial statement for the month ending June 30 showed Marshall ended the 1984-85 fiscal year with a deficit of about \$14,275. Cecilia Ward, who prepares the monthly statement, said that most of the deficit in the general fund could be attributed to contributions made to the town's water and sewer fund.

The figures in the final pre-audit report indicate that the town's general fund contributed more than \$44,000 to the operation of water and sewer services in the year which ended on June 30.

The town's budget would have flowed even more red ink, however, had it not received a state grant of \$35,000 for the purchase of the town's new garbage truck.

In addition to the contributions to the water and sewer fund, cost overruns in several town departments contributed to the deficit.

The town's police department, originally budgeted for \$32,000, spent \$40,223.97 in the past fiscal year. Police expenditures accounted for 15 percent of the town budget in 1984-85.

Recreation, originally budgeted for \$5,000, accounted for \$6,485.19. Tax collections, budgeted for \$500, accounted for expenses totalling \$1,409.

On the plus side, the town spent less than anticipated on administration and street repairs during the past year.

After presenting the aldermen with the bad financial news, Mrs. Ward suggested that the board consider raising water rates in order to halt the flow of cash from the general fund.

Mrs. Ward pointed out that 1984-85 was the second year in a row that the town's general fund had sustained a large loss. She said that it is unfair for Marshall property taxpayers to subsidize water services for customers outside the town limits and suggested the board consider raising the basic water rates by 25 percent to make up for shortfalls.

A 25 percent increase in the basic charge, Ward pointed out, would increase the monthly fee for Marshall

residents from the present \$5 to \$6.25. Charges for residents outside town limits would increase from \$7.50 to \$9.38.

Ward also suggested the board consider raising the rates for water above the present 3,000 minimum charge.

Board member Sammy Lunsford suggested lowering the monthly minimum water allowance instead of increasing the basic charge.

By reducing the amount of water included in the basic charge, Lunsford said, senior citizens who do not often exceed the minimum would not be penalized, while large water consumers would be encouraged to conserve water. Lunsford's proposal received support from the board members, but no action was taken on the matter during the Monday night hearing.

The board members asked Mrs. Ward to prepare an estimate of projected increased revenues if the 3,000 gallon minimum charge were reduced to 2,500 or 2,000 gallons.

In other action, the board approved a payment of \$15 to Evelyn Collins for repairs she had made to her driveway following installation of a water line.

The board also heard from Raymond Moore of Redmon Rd., who complained that his water bills were inaccurate. Moore told the aldermen that the meter at his home was unreadable, saying, "If you can read it, I'll eat it." The board agreed to install a new meter at the property.

Donna Ward came before the board to ask for financial assistance in operating the swimming pool at the Recreation Center. Ward said that high utility bills would make it impossible for her to continue to operate the pool without help. Earlier, Ward

and Linda Jenkins had entered into an agreement with the town to operate the pool at no cost to the town.

Ward said she had earlier approached the county commissioners for assistance, but was refused. The aldermen voted to give Ward \$500 to help pay her electric bill on a motion made by John Dodson and seconded by Ed Niles.

Mayor Wild asked the aldermen to consider raising the rental rates for two lots leased to Cody Motor Sales and office space leased to Richard Kingston. Referring to Kingston's \$35 monthly rent, Ed Niles said, "He couldn't rent a shoe for that." The board took no action on Wild's request, tabling the matter until it can be determined what the terms of the lease agreements are.

The board also appointed Billy Jean Redmon, Julia Bailey and Eileen Payne to serve on the town Board of Elections for the November municipal election.

In an unrelated matter, Mayor Wild was asked about an article which appeared in last Friday's Charlotte Observer. In the article, the mayor was quoted as saying, "You can kill someone in Madison County and nothing will come of it if you're one of the good 'ol boys. I'm tangling with them. It's an endeavor that takes all I've got."

Wild was asked if she were quoted correctly in the article written by Elizabeth Leland. Mayor Wild responded saying, "That's a correct quote."

The board adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on August 12.

### Bull's Eye



BRAHMA BULL CASTS SUSPICIOUS EYE on photographer between performances of the annual rodeo on Blannerhassett Island.

### Guild Fair Opens July 18

Kathy Triplett of Weaverville will sell practical mugs in pretty colors and teapots that look like they were made in outer space at the annual Guild Fair July 18-21 at the Asheville Civic Center.

The annual fair of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild will feature the works of 175 craftsmen from the mountain area from the traditional to the contemporary. Kathy, who heats her studio near Weaverville with a wood stove and listens to electronic music while she works, produces both kinds of crafts. Her booth will be unusual because some of her containers are inspired by space ships. Her teapots are in fantastic shapes which caused one viewer to say they would be just the thing for characters to use for tea in a Star Wars film.

Children love her work immediately. Kathy says, but adults are sometimes baffled, sometimes even insulted. They stop looking when they

discover that her teapots in contemporary colors such as violet and aqua sell for about \$85 in galleries such as the Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston and the Duke Street Gallery in Pendleton, S.C.

For those who want something more practical, she makes mugs in the same lively colors, mugs cleverly shaped to fit the hand.

Kathy studied in Mexico for awhile, and she suspects her geometric shapes may have been inspired by Aztec art. Before she moved to the Weaverville area she lived in a banked-earth solar house in Georgia.

The Guild Fair with Kathy's pottery and the work of other local craftsmen will be in the Asheville Civic Center Thursday through Saturday, July 18-20 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday, July 21 from 12 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Sunday is Family Day and children under 12 will be admitted free.

### Post Office Set To Open

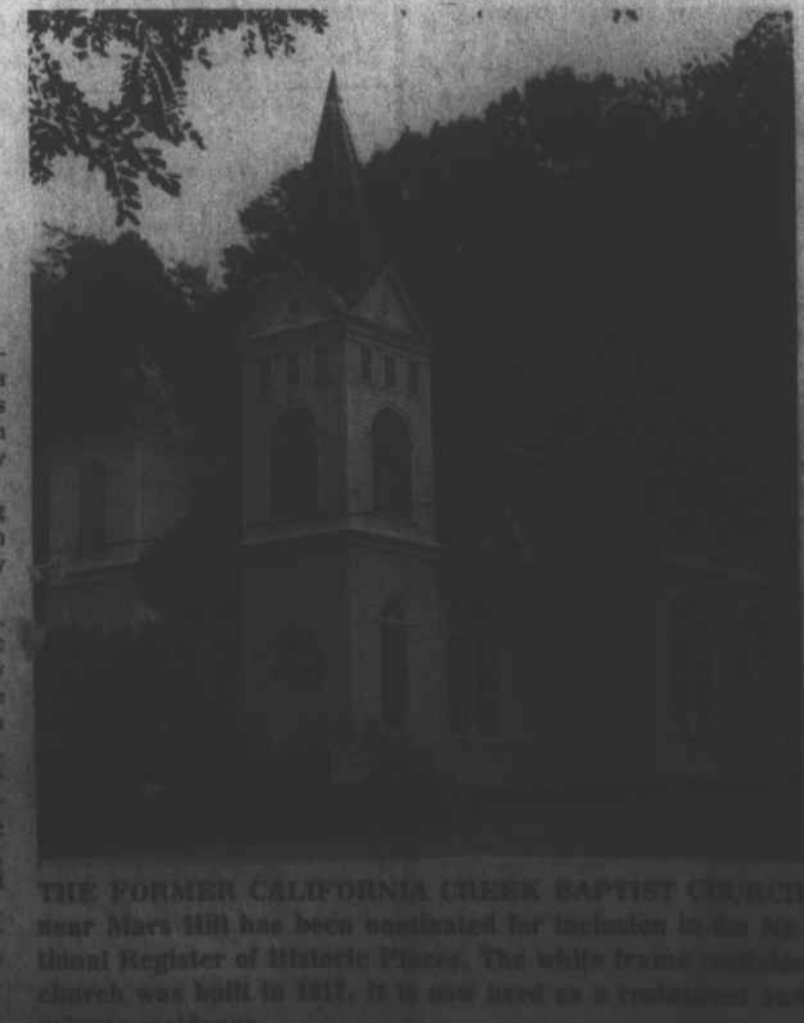
The Alexander post office is ready to move into its new home on the Old Marshall Highway just south of the present post office.

"I've got the key (to the new building) right here in my pocket," said Postmaster H. L. Howard, who said the new building—a modern stone-faced structure—had received its final inspection June 4.

The new building, like the old structure a leaseback arrangement for the U.S. Postal Service, is owned by a construction firm in Albany, N.Y., along with the lot on which it is built. Howard explains that this means the value of the land and the building

itself will stay on the tax rolls, whereas if the postal service owned the land and building, the county would receive no taxes.

Howard, who was a sectional postal clerk in Asheville before taking the Alexander post about three years ago, said the new post office would maintain the same hours as the old one—8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays (but closed for lunch from 11:30 to 1 o'clock), and 7:30 to 11 a.m. Saturdays. Howard says he believes his is the only post office around that has open counter hours on Saturdays, but he adds there are a couple of contract offices in Asheville that are also open on Saturdays.



THE FORMER CALIFORNIA CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH near Mars Hill has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The white frame church was built in 1817. It is now used as a community center.



KATHY TRIPLETT of Weaverville displays some of her work which will be shown during the annual Guild Fair at the Asheville Civic Center July 18-21.