

Othella Ogle Named Teacher Of The Year

Othella Ogle, a second-grade teacher at Marshall Primary School, has been named as the Madison County Teacher of the Year for 1985.

A graduate of Walnut High School and Mars Hill College, Mrs. Ogle has also attended Berea College and Western Carolina University.

She began her teaching career at Walnut School as a fifth-grade instructor. She has also served as a remedial instructor in grades seven and eight and as a reading instructor. She has taught second grade classes in Marshall since 1972. She has been called upon on many occasions to con-

duct teacher workshops in Madison, Mitchell and Buncombe Counties.

Ronnie Wallin was named as the teacher of the year nominee at Madison H.S., Mars Hill Elementary School named Linda Campbell as their teacher of the year, Kathryn Boone was the teacher of the year representing Marshall Elementary School and Jimmy Joe Shelton was the nominee of Laurel Elementary School.

Spring Creek, Hot Springs and Walnut Elementary Schools did not take part in the awards contest this year.



OTHELLA OGLE

County Unemployment Rose In August

Madison County's unemployment picture darkened slightly during August according to figures released on Monday by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC.) Madison County's jobless rate increased by half a percent during the month, to 6.4 percent of the workforce.

Statewide, the ESC reported what was termed a "negligible increase" of two-tenths of one percent. The August statewide unemployment figure stood at 5.8 percent.

According to the latest ESC figures, 330 Madison Countians were without

jobs in August, while 7,740 workers were employed. Although the unemployment rate increased during the month, the actual number of jobless declined by 10 workers.

Neighboring N.C. counties also reported small increases in unemployment during the period. In Buncombe County, joblessness was up seven-tenths of one percent to 5.2 percent. Haywood County unemployment recorded a .5 percent increase to 6.3 percent and Yancey County unemployment also rose .5 percent to 6.6 percent during the month.

Medicare Program Suspends Powell

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services has suspended former Mars Hill Mayor Bill Powell from participating in the Medicaid and Medicare programs as a result of his conviction on charges of Medicaid fraud. The suspension, which became effective on Sept. 12, will continue for two years according to Bob Foster, sanctions coordinator with the Inspector General's office in Atlanta.

Powell operates the Community Medical Center Pharmacy in Mars Hill. Foster said that Powell's suspension means that services provided by his pharmacy will not be reimbursable under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Powell may apply for reinstatement in the program at the conclusion of the two-year suspension period.

The former Mars Hill mayor entered guilty pleas to five counts of violating North Carolina pharmacy laws in Wake County District Court in February, 1984.

The charges stemmed from Powell's services to patients at the Madison Manor Nursing Center in Mars Hill. Four counts charged Powell with substituting generic equivalent drugs for name brand prescriptions. The fifth count charged Powell with obliterating a label on a sample drug package administered to a patient at the nursing home.

Wake County District Court Judge Arthur Lane fined Powell \$10,000 following the conviction. In September of last year, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy revoked Powell's pharmacist's license for 180 days as a result of the conviction. The board reinstated Powell in March of this year.

The suspension of Medicare and Medicaid coverage for the convicted pharmacist is mandatory, according to Bob Foster, the sanctions coordinator of the Inspector General's office in Atlanta.

Foster said the delay in announcing the suspension was caused by a delay in receiving reports on the case from North Carolina officials. Services provided by Powell prior to Sept. 12 are reimbursable by the federal health insurance programs, he said.

Powell was notified of the suspension in a letter dated August 29.

OTHELLA OGLE

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Church Events

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Downing, senior minister of the University Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, will be the guest minister for a series of sermons at the Mars Hill Baptist Church on Oct. 6 through 9.

The theme for the series is "Will The Real Church Stand Up?" Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6 and at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The Rev. Richard E. Price, pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, invites everyone to attend.

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