

Masons Open New Lodge

—Story On P. 12

Community
Calendar

DOE Changes Schedule

For April 4 Public Hearings

In anticipation of a large public turnout, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced changes in the schedule for an April 4 public hearing in Asheville. The hearing will provide the public the opportunity to comment on the DOE's proposal to locate a permanent nuclear waste storage facility in Buncombe, Madison and Haywood Counties.

The hearings will be held at the Asheville Civic Center in three sessions; from 9 a.m. until noon, 2 until 5 p.m. and from 7 until 10 p.m. Speakers will be allotted up to five minutes to comment on the DOE's Crystalline Repository Project.

A large delegation of Madison County residents is expected to speak at the hearing. Among those planning to speak are county commissioners James Ledford and Ervin Adams, Madison High School senior Beth Kiser, Taylor Barnhill, Dr. Reese Steen, Drew Langsner, Norris Gentry, Lou Zeller, Nora Reeves, Rev. Jerry Evans and Jeanne Hoffman.

FBEMC Plans April 19 Meeting
At Mars Hill College

The annual membership meeting of the French Broad Electric Membership Corp. will be held on April 19 on the campus of Mars Hill College. The annual business meeting will be conducted in the Moore Auditorium.

Registration will begin at noon on April 19. "Hee Haw" star Archie Campbell will perform at 1:30 p.m. and the business session will begin at 2:30 p.m. Drawings for door prizes will be held following the business meeting. Members must be present to win.

For more information, call FBEMC at 649-2051.

American Legion To Meet

American Legion Post 317 in Marshall will meet on April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Legion Hall on Back Street. Members of the Ladies Auxiliary will prepare supper. All members are urged to attend.

Optimists To Meet April 3

The Madison Central Optimists Club will meet on April 3 at 7 p.m. at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall Bypass. All members are asked to attend.

Job Search Workshop Set

The Opportunity Corporation of Madison and Buncombe Counties will offer a five-day job search training session in Marshall at the Marshall Elementary School beginning on April 7. Classes will meet from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. daily through April 11.

The sessions are free and transportation can be provided. For more information, contact the Opportunity Corp. at 649-3231.

Goat Association To Meet

The western division of the Piedmont Dairy Goat Association will meet on April 13 at the Kingham farm in Burnsville. Bring-a-dish luncheon will be served at 1 p.m., followed by a 2 p.m. meeting. Dr. Patricia Lane will present a program on medicine and goats. Visitors are welcome to attend. Call 683-9878 for directions to the meeting site.

Shotgun Blast Kills
Weaverville Man

Birthday Party Takes Tragic Turn

By ROBERT KOENIG

A 21-year old Weaverville man was killed by a single gunshot early Saturday morning at a party on Chandler's Creek. The victim's best friend and roommate has been charged with murder in connection with the shooting.

Stuart Lane Ballard, 21, of Locust Grove Rd., Weaverville was found dead at the scene of the party in a vacant house on Chandler Creek north of Mars Hill. Ballard was shot once in the neck and upper chest with a 16-gauge sawed-off shotgun.

Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder reported receiving a call at 3:45 a.m. to come to the Chandler Creek home. The victim was dead when the sheriff arrived at the scene shortly after 4 a.m.

Sheriff Ponder arrested Everett Chandler, 28, and charged him with murder. Chandler, who told police he was the victim's best friend, said that the shotgun went off as he and the victim were scuffling over it. Sheriff Ponder told reporters, "It appears they got into a racket over a girl."

The sheriff said that there were ten other people in the house at the time of the shooting. The night began as a birthday party for one of the women who were at the house. Sheriff Ponder said that Chandler and Ballard had been living together for several weeks in the house.

Chandler appeared in Madison County District Court on Tuesday for a preliminary hearing. He remains in the Madison County Jail today without bond. His next court appearance is scheduled for April 1.

Funeral services for the victim were conducted on Tuesday. Complete obituary information appears on Page 3.

Sheriff Recovers
Stolen Jewelry

By ROBERT KOENIG

Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder apprehended two women wanted in connection with last week's robbery of Howard's Drug Store in Mars Hill on Saturday. Ponder also reports recovering an estimated \$2,500 in jewelry taken during the March 19 theft.

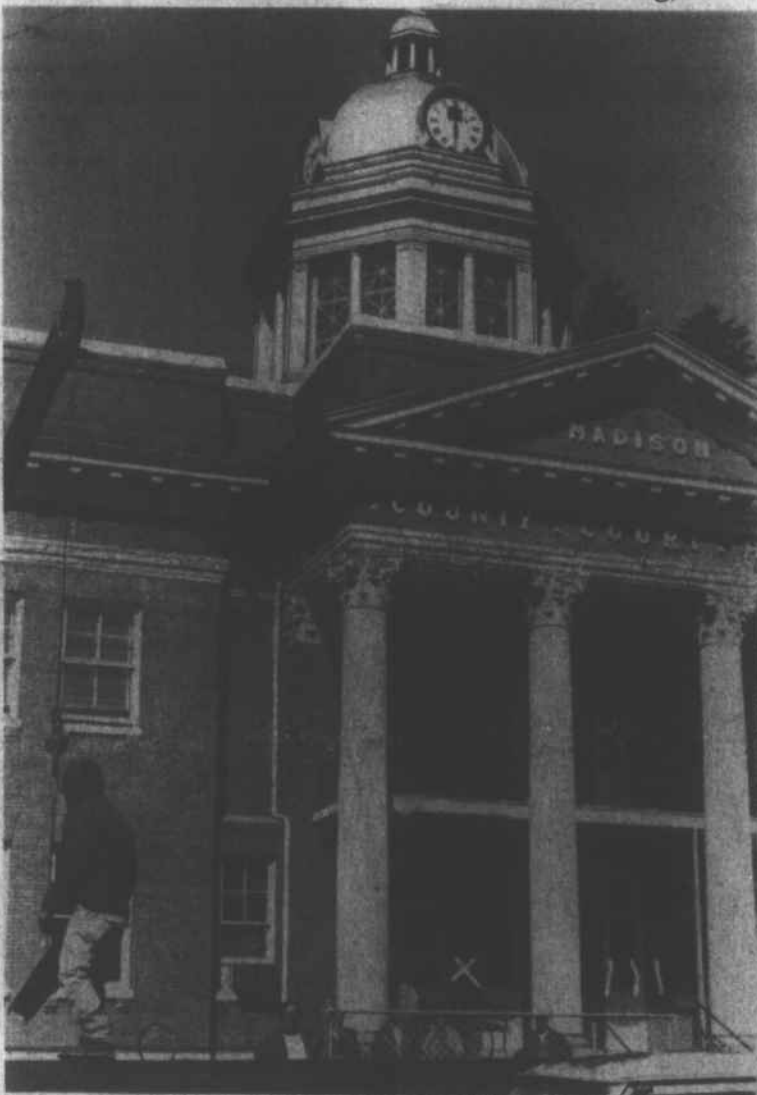
Two women wanted in connection with the robbery were arrested in Asheville by Ponder and members of the Asheville Police Dept. Arrested were Molly Austin, 37, of Gastonia and Teresa Murphy, 22, of E. Chestnut Street, Asheville. Both women were charged with larceny in connection with the jewelry theft. They were both freed on \$10,000 bond on Monday.

Sheriff Ponder reported that two women entered Howard's Drug Store

on Main Street in Mars Hill on Wednesday afternoon. The women waited as a prescription was filled, and the jewelry was discovered missing shortly after they left the store.

The jewelry—gold earrings, rings, necklaces and a bracelet—were valued at \$2,500.

The Madison County Sheriff's Dept. also reported the recovery of three stolen cars in the past week. All three cars had been stolen in Tennessee. Two of the stolen cars were destroyed by thieves, police believe. The destroyed cars, late model Buicks, were burned and left in the Spring Creek and Peachtree sections. The cases are not believed to be related. Two of the cars were stolen from Greene County, Tenn. The third car was reported stolen in Hawkins County, Tenn.



WORK ON THE MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE began last week with the removal of the clockworks and "Blind Justice" statue. Workers plan to remove the 16-ton cupola this weekend.

SBI Raids
Net 16

Law enforcement officers from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division and Madison County assistant district attorney James Baker conducted three late-night raids on Friday, resulting in the arrest of 16 people on a total of 24 charges of liquor law and gambling violations.

Search warrants were served by A.L.E. officers Stewart Cook and Royce Stephens at Ramsey's Amusement House on Rt. 213, Cook's Grocery Store on Rt. 208 North, and a trailer home owned by William Thomas on the Marshall Bypass.

Wayne Ramsey, 55, of Marshall, was charged with a total of six state violations, including two charges of keeping and use of an illegal slot

machine on his premises. He was also charged with possession for sale of tax-paid alcoholic beverages without obtaining an applicable ABC permit and revenue license, the selling of taxpaid alcoholic beverages without permit and license, operating a game of chance (poker) in which money was bet, and allowing gambling in a house of entertainment.

Arrested at Ramsey's establishment, located on Rt. 213 between Marshall and Mars Hill, were seven others, all on charges of playing at a game of chance (draw poker) in which money was bet, a violation of state statutes, GS 14-292.

Those charged were: Frank Herbert Shelton, 49; Michael Rodney Johnson, 32; H.J. Lane Ogle, 41

—Continued on Page 2

Richard Dillingham Works To Save Old Cemeteries

By WILLIAM LEE

What began as one man's crusade to save the past may soon culminate in salvation for many of Madison County's old and abandoned cemeteries.

Richard Dillingham, curator of the Mars Hill College Rural Life Museum, began recording and plotting the old cemeteries back in the late 60's, only to see the gravesites vanish under plowed fields or ribbons of concrete highways.

Now, a concerted effort by Dillingham and Dr. Evelyn Underwood, director of the Mars Hill Community Development Board, will pave the way for more old cemeteries to be rescued by saving the Deaver-McElroy Cemetery in Mars Hill.

Laying just below the Texaco station on the crest of the ridge where U.S. 213 and 19-23 intersect, the old cemetery had seen years of disrepair, undoubtedly added to by the clearing of trees to make way for the Texaco station and Western Steer Restaurant.

With the co-operation of J.F. Robinson, who has agreed to deed the cemetery to either the community board or the town of Mars Hill, a proposal will be made at the April meeting of the Madison County Planning Board to recommend that the county commission set up a trust fund for the care and maintenance of the cemetery's old cemeteries.

The proposal is only in its preliminary stages, according to

planning board Director Jerry Plemmons. He says the Planning Board will probably want to learn how other counties are handling the procurement of old abandoned cemeteries before making any final recommendation to the county commissioners.

The proposal would allow property owners with cemeteries on their land to deed the burial sites to the county. What remains to be worked out is whether to allow the county to transfer care and maintenance to third parties, such as the Mars Hill Community Development Board, or simply set up a trust fund or foundation to oversee that maintenance.

Due to 1981 legislation, the state has made it a felony to destroy any cemetery, including abandoned cemeteries and Indian burial grounds. Under that legislation all cemeteries on private property are the responsibility of the landowner to maintain unless, as Robinson has offered, they deed the cemetery to the county.

It was that legislation which enabled Dillingham to rescue the Deaver-McElroy Cemetery. The curator also learned of the cemetery's historical significance in the process.

"The cemetery is the gravesite of Thomas Shephard Deaver, a founding trustee of Mars Hill College, and great-grandfather of Buncombe Lunsford, the former minister of Southern Appalachian Baptist Church, Dillingham explains.

Also buried here is Lunsford's

grandmother, Polly Miranda Sexton. Since many of the mountain folk music was carried down from mother to daughter, Dillingham believes she may have been one of the early sources for Lunsford's songs.

At one time, the cemetery also held the grave of many of the McElroy family, including John McElroy, a confederate general of the North Carolina home guard. Relatives a few years ago removed the McElroys to Riverside Cemetery in Asheville, fearing the Mars Hill site was in danger of being abandoned.

Dillingham has also traced the Deaver's family tree to find many of them married with the Keith family. The Keith's were one of the first pioneer settlers to Madison County, settling in the Forks of Ivy area.

It was unfortunate that current legislation came too late to save the Keith cemetery. Lying on a ridge by U.S. 19-23, looking down on the Forks of Ivy community, all that remains to mark the spot is a lone, barren white oak.

"Seeing that one go made me determined that if I ever saw another cemetery in danger of being lost, I would personally do all I could to prevent its destruction," said Dillingham.

So far only The Greater Ivy Community Development Club has made the effort to have its area cemeteries surveyed and registered with the state. Even though the club was not among the most vocal in the

—Continued on Page 12