

Manly Wade Wellman Remembered — Story On Page 5

Community Calendar

Madison High Hosts Open House On Monday Night

Madison County eighth-grade students and their parents are invited to attend the annual Open House at Madison High School on April 21. The open house tours will be offered from 7 until 8:30 p.m. Parents and students will be briefed on school policies and introduced to faculty members. Assistance in making course selections will also be offered. For more information, call 649-2876.

Spring Creek VFD Dance Saturday

The Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. will host a benefit dance on April 26 from 7 until 10 p.m. Country and gospel recording group "Carolina Country", formerly known as J.L. and the Country Squires, will appear along with the Hoot and Holler Band. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children under 12. Proceeds will be used to purchase communication equipment for the fire company.

Circus Coming To Marshall April 29

The Marshall VFD will sponsor two performances of the Roberts Bros. Circus on Blannerhassett Island in Marshall on April 29. Performances are scheduled for 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are available from all volunteer firemen. Proceeds will be used to purchase fire-fighting equipment.

Madison Republicans To Meet

The Madison County Republican Party will meet on April 27 in the Mars Hill Town Hall. All candidates, election officials and rank and file Republicans are asked to attend the 2:30 p.m. meeting.

Weaverville Town Council To Meet

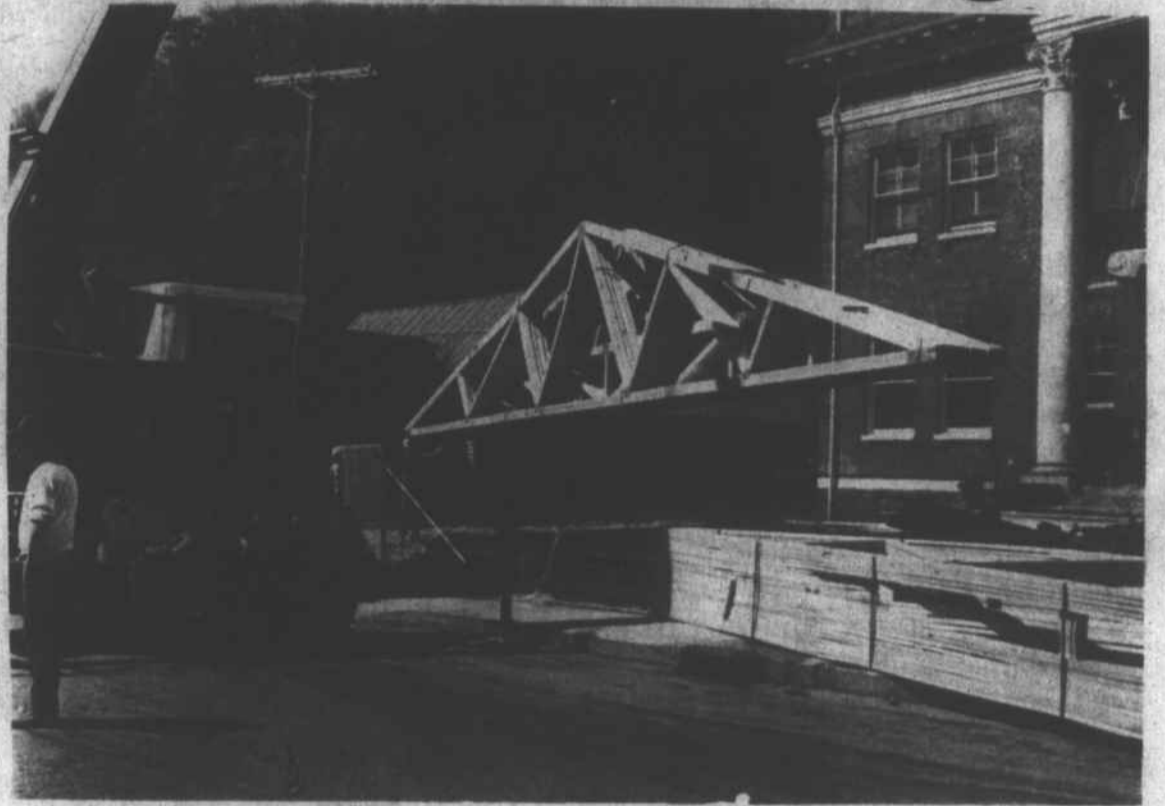
The Weaverville Town Council will meet on April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall on Main Street.

Boosters Sponsor Flea Market

The Madison High Athletic Boosters will sponsor a flea market and bake sale in the parking lot of First Citizens Bank on May 3. Sales will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the Boosters Scholarship Fund.

Marshall To Limit Main Street Parking

By ROBERT KOENIG Marshall aldermen approved a return to limited parking on Main Street during their Monday night meeting. Parking will be limited to two hours during business hours. The board approved the ordinance unanimously in response to a request from George Penland and other businessmen who complained that lack of adequate parking was hurting Main Street businesses. Mayor Anita Ward announced that the town will receive up to \$58,586 in assistance for water and sewer projects. The money was approved by the Madison County Board of Commissioners during their April 7 meeting. The funds were awarded to the county by state government and will be transferred to Marshall's use when the town submits a plan to state officials in Raleigh. The town's financial report was delivered by Cecilia Ward, who told the aldermen that the town's Water and Sewer Fund was nearing solvency. Mrs. Ward suggested that the Water and Sewer Fund may be able to operate on a break-even basis by the end of the fiscal year. She credited a program to locate and stop leaks for much of the savings in both water and utility charges.



SUPPORT BEAMS FOR THE COURT HOUSE ROOF replacement project. Mars Hill architect Wayne Roberts were delivered last week as work continues on the roof reports that the project is proceeding on schedule.

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New Tobacco Law Voids Old Quotas

The new tobacco legislation signed into law by President Reagan on April 7 cancels the previously announced quotas for the 1986 burley tobacco crop. Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the cancellation last week. The USDA officials added that other significant changes in the tobacco program will be made as a result of the Combined Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985. Milton Hertz, acting administrator of the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the new law cancels the previously announced quotas. Hertz added that new quotas for the 1986 crop will be announced on April 28. The new amendments to the Agricultural Act of 1938, burley quotas for 1986 and future crop years will be determined by three factors: the intended purchases of cigarette manufacturers, the average annual exports for the three preceding crop years and the amount of tobacco estimated to attain reserve stock levels. Quota reductions for 1986 through 1989 will be limited to six percent per year and to 10 percent for crops in 1990 through 1993, Hertz said. Among the other changes to be brought about by the new law is a change in the No Net Cost provisions of the tobacco bill. Beginning this year, growers and buyers will share the no-net cost assessments. The new law also limits the amount of burley tobacco that can be marketed without penalty has also been reduced from 110 to 103 percent of the farm marketing quota. The new bill also limits the USDA's discretion for setting burley quotas to no more than 103 percent or less than 97 percent of the amount determined by manufacturers needs, export and reserve stock levels.



MEMBERS OF THE ROBERTS BROS. CIRCUS BOBBO AND BOBBINO were in Marshall last week to finalize plans for the April 29 performances on Blannerhassett Is. Circus is sponsored by the Marshall Volunteer Fire Dept. Performances are scheduled for 6 and 8 p.m.

Child Abuse

DSS Reports Number Of Cases Reported Increases

By WILLIAM LEE

When counselors from the Madison County Department of Social Services responded to a call from a battered wife one day last year, they found more than they had bargained for.

An infant, neglected because the stepfather would not let the mother care for it, was found in a backroom, it's skin peeling, scaly and bleeding from open sores because of the unclean conditions.

An investigator who dealt with cases of child abuse and neglect was called in. The mother said she had wanted to care for the child but was not allowed to. The husband drank heavily and there was not enough money for medical treatment.

The Dept. of Social Services drew up a special agreement between the mother and the social worker assigned to her case. The mother agreed to move herself and her child out of the house and in with relatives. Medical treatment was provided and the child's condition improved.

However, the woman packed up her child and returned to the husband, and the three left the area. Social Services is still searching for them, through law enforcement agencies and other health and social service departments.

Since January, the Madison County Department of Social Services has investigated 48 cases of child abuse-neglect. Of those, 20 have been substantiated as neglect and six others are still under investigation. Such figures show a dramatic increase over past years in Madison County. Whether there is an increase in child abuse in Madison County can not be ascertained. Such statistics may only reflect an increasing awareness of the problem, or more diligent investigation by DSS now that they have a full-time investigator.

Not all cases are as severe as the one above, but it is typical in the fact that most of the cases seen by investigator Linda King and DSS Director Anita Davie fall into the category of neglect, not abuse. Only one case this year has called for the immediate removal of a child, and that too was because of the neglect of the child's medical attention.

"We try to work with the family and resolve the problem," said Linda King. "Even in the case of the woman who ran back to the husband, as so many battered women often do, we operate on a degree of mutual trust, through a working agreement. It is a risk we take, believing that it is best whenever possible to let the child stay with its family."

In investigating any reports, King will talk first with teachers or principals at the schools or day care centers, then with the child. From there clergy, family physician, and neighbors are contacted before King will approach the parents.

"By that time you pretty well know whether its a case of neglect or not," King said.

King adds that complete confidentiality is given to anyone reporting a possible case of neglect or abuse. The DSS will make an investigation based only on an anonymous call.

Once a problem is substantiated, the DSS can then call on a number of community resources to back them up. Medical evaluations can be provided at the schools or through the Madison County Health Department, and psychologists from the Blue Ridge Mental Health Center will be called in on occasion for individual trauma therapy for the child, or group counseling for the family. Nor is it uncommon for King or team social workers to be accompanied to the home by sheriff's deputies.

"Nobody wants it said or even insinuated that they've been a bad parent," King said, "so it's not uncommon for me to meet with some hostility or even threats."

Only on one instance did Davie recall an investigator or team worker being shoved around or under any actual threat of bodily harm.

"Most of the time by talking it over I can overcome that animosity and get things settled down," King added.

"If our investigator or our team workers are refused admittance to talk the mother over, we can get court orders to back us up," said Anita Davie.

"Most of our cases can be easily resolved," Davie explained. "They can be simple cases of lack of supervision, or unclean clothing or home environment."

It is at this point, when the initial investigation is completed, where team workers from DSS get involved. An agreement is drawn up between the family and the team workers.

"The agreement states what steps the parents will take and that they will do one, two and three to improve the home situation," Davie explained. "In return the team workers agrees to do its part to provide assistance where possible."

While all of the DSS cases this year have been for child neglect, and few of any severity, the term "child neglect" still has a very broad definition in North Carolina. Indicators of child neglect include abandonment, lack of supervision, lack of adequate clothing or good hygiene, lack of medical or dental care, chronic truancy, lack of adequate nutrition, and lack of adequate shelter.

DSS has investigated 48 reports of abuse or neglect since January. Of those, 20 cases of neglect were substantiated.

However, although their guidelines for neglect make no mention of abuse, the Madison County Dept. of Social Services has lumped its cases of whippings and beatings under the category of neglect rather than actual abuse. Davie says that the reason for this is because attempts to prosecute under charges of abuse have met with so much resistance in the courts. Instead, cases of severe whippings, even those leaving cuts and bruises, are often deemed only as improper or inappropriate discipline.

"If it were otherwise, but the law only considers it child abuse if it is life threatening or permanent impairment to the child is involved."

and are apparently included in the DSS figures of child neglect. The Blue Ridge Center, while admitting they had done counseling in that area, likewise could offer no exact figures. Davie gave the estimate that under ten percent of their cases involved some form of sexual abuse.

While isolated incidents of child beating and sexual abuse escape prosecution through voluntary counseling and therapy, Davie points out that continued reports of such behavior, or any past history of abuse can lead to prosecution.

"There is right and there is wrong in our society, and then there is what is taboo, such as sexual abuse," said Gary Sollazzo, Director of the Madison County offices of the Blue Ridge Center. "As a psychologist we learn that society puts taboos on such deeds because the temptation is there."

Sollazzo points out that few abusers fall into the category of having deep pathologic problems that can't be treated. In fact, the sexual abuser and the child abuser may exhibit similar problems with self-esteem. A past family history of abuse is also likely to be present.

"Abuse is usually traceable to some form of life pressure," Sollazzo said. "It can be marital problems taken out on the child, or financial worries causing stress. And the poor do not have a monopoly on financial worries or the stress it causes."

Sollazzo adds that rarely does the Blue Ridge Center see many referrals from the DSS and usually it involves only evaluation of the specific problems. The center will confer with parents for a few family sessions to explore the malady that may be responsible for any friction or abusive behavior. The center will also occasionally counsel the children to help them adjust and come to terms with what is happening in the home.

"There are not evil people who beat or abuse their children," Sollazzo explains. "They often feel they are coping with stress by hurting their own children. They are not evil people, but they are not good people either."