

600 Attend FBEMC Meeting

Some 600 people attended the annual meeting of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation held in Mars Hill on Saturday. Popular entertainer Archie Campbell and his band, the Pilgrims, entertained the audience in Moore Auditorium.

Following the entertainment, FBEMC members heard a report from general manager Charles Tolley. The general manager said local customers can expect to see a rate increase in the future. Tolley said that although the cooperative has not faced a wholesale rate increase from the principal supplier, Carolina Power and Light, in more than 14 months, a rate increase should be expected later this year when the Shearon Harris nuclear plant near Raleigh is put into production.

"I wish I could stand here and tell you we would never have to face another rate increase, but I can't," Tolley said. He added that he thought that local rates would stabilize for a time once the new nuclear plant is put on line. Carolina Power and Light has not yet sought an increase in their wholesale rate charged to cooperatives, but a rate increase request is expected later this year. Tolley also told the members that

FBEMC is currently conducting a study of the cooperative's long-term power needs and considering construction of a coal-fired generating plant. New technology to make such plants environmentally acceptable is being studied, he added.

The cooperative's membership approved a resolution opposing creation of a permanent nuclear waste repository proposed for Madison, Buncombe and Haywood Counties.

Four members of the cooperative's board of directors were re-elected without opposition at Saturday's meeting. The re-elected members are John O. Corbett of Marshall, W.G. Plemmons of Buncombe County and James Ray and Bill Riddle, both of Yancey County. During a directors meeting following the membership meeting, Corbett was re-elected as board president for the coming year.

Following the business session, drawings for door prizes was conducted. Coy Ball of Route 5, Marshall was the winner of a microwave oven. Billie Plemmons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Plemmons of Route 6, Marshall, won a girl's bicycle. Jonathan Krause of Mars Hill was the winner of the boy's bicycle. Jonathan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krause of Mars Hill.



Photo by Pam Higgins

ARCHIE CAMPBELL AND HIS BAND, the Pilgrims entertained the audience prior to the start of the annual French Broad EMC business meeting Saturday in Mars Hill.

Planned Methodist Church

Hot Springs will hold its third annual Homecoming Services on April 27. Church services will begin at 9 p.m. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. An afternoon singing is planned following lunch.

Anyone who has attended the church in the past is invited to attend.

Harmony Singing Planned

An old-time Christian harmony singing will be held on May 4 at 10:30 a.m. at Etowah School. Everyone is invited to attend and bring along song books and a picnic lunch.

Mars Hill AA Chapter Meets

The Mars Hill chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday evening in the Mars Hill Methodist Church. Anyone with an alcohol problem is invited to attend. There are no dues or fees charged.

The chapter is planning a special meeting on May 15 at 8 p.m.. Non-alcoholics are invited to attend. There will be a special guest speaker who will detail the purposes of Alcoholics Anonymous.


For more information, call 689-3671, 689-2941 or 689-2651.

Old-fashioned Gospel Singing Set

There will be an old-fashioned gospel singing at the Asheville Civic Center on May 6 at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Hillcrest Enrichment Program, the singing will feature the Revs. Janice Brown and F.C. Barnes. The McDonald Sisters and the Jackson Family will be the guest singers.

Admission is \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door.

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Housing Board Upholds Firing

The Madison County Housing Authority held a lengthy meeting behind closed doors Tuesday night. The board met to consider the dismissal of Housing Authority employee Art Streppa who was dismissed by MCHA director Sam Parker earlier last week.


Parker contends he fired Streppa after he disobeyed an order to go to Mars Hill to investigate problems at the 40-unit housing complex the authority operates. Streppa contends that he failed to follow Parker's order because he had appointments at the authority's Marshall office.

The housing board met in executive session for more than two hours hearing testimony from both Streppa and Parker and other Housing Authority employees. Streppa was represented at the hearing by Mars Hill attorney Ed Krause. County attorney Larry Leake also attended the closed hearing.

After hearing both sides of the dispute, board members voted unanimously to uphold Parker's action. Krause declined to comment on the decision against his client.

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The here and now

Nancy clasped her hand firmly in granddad's as they roamed the large forest on the back of his farm. He helped her through the underbrush, careful that no whipping limb lash her face as they fought the small trees struggling for a bigger place among the tall ones.

They came to a clearing in the dense woods and stopped. "Nancy," he said to the six-year-old "apple of his eye" as he stood gazing at the trees. "What is here now that was not here a hundred years ago?"

Nancy looked around, combing the little clearing filled with wildflowers and their backdrop of huge trees. But no answer came.

"Think, Nancy, think," he urged.

Then her eyes lit up. "Me!"

Whether that was the answer granddad had in mind, I don't know. But I do know that Nancy's answer is on target. She and all her friends are the new generation. They were not here a hundred years ago; not many of us were. Nancy, you and the rest of us have a legacy, a heritage, and responsibility to do something good and great with all we have inherited.

We were not here a hundred years ago. But we are now!



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