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## County Gets Ready For Election Tuesday

A number of important state and local seats live up the 1986 election, with a reasonably good turnout expected this Tuesday, November 4.

Here in Madison County, the voters will be electing an all-new county commission with the current three commissioners having lost in the primaries. A close race is also expected in the school board race, with an outside chance of one or two of the incumbents giving way to Republican challengers.

On the state level, James McClure Clarke and William Hendon do battle once again for U.S. Congressional District 11 seat. Clarke lost to Hendon the last time the two went head to head. Former North Carolina Governor Terry Sanford is considered to have a slight edge in the polls to unseat Republican James Broyhill for the U.S. Senate. Broyhill was appointed to that seat two months ago after the death of Senator John East.

For State Senate District 28, voters can choose two candidates among the four running, Democrats Robert S. Swain and Dennis Winner, and Republicans Bill Horton and John Stewart, Jr. Democrats Charles Beall and Liston Ramsey are unopposed for State House District 52.

## News Record Names Student As Editor

William J. Studenc Jr. has been named editor of The News Record. He starts work at the paper's Marshall office next Monday, succeeding Robert T. Koenig.

Studenc, who grew up in the Black Mountain and Swannanoa area, holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been with The Mountaineer, The News Record's sister newspaper, since June 1983 as a staff reporter.

Studenc, 25, whose appointment to the News Record editorship was announced this week by Cheryl Koenig, the paper's general manager, won first place for news writing in 1984 in the North Carolina Press Assn.'s annual contest.

A graduate of Owen High School in Swannanoa, Studenc (whose last name is pronounced "students") has been a part-time sports reporter for The Asheville Citizen and was a reporter-photographer intern for the Black Mountain News during the

summer of 1982.

While attending Carolina, Studenc was a writer for the UNC Journalist and a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel, the five-day-a-week paper serving the UNC campus.

As a staff writer for the three-times-a-week Mountaineer in Waynesville, Studenc has been working for the last three years under the direction of editor Clifton B. Metcalf, a Madison County native, handling a variety of political and environmental "beats" for the paper.

Between Robert Koenig's departure for a new job as news editor with the Hendersonville Times-News and Studenc's arrival next week, The News Record's newsgathering and features have been in the hands of William Lee, news editor, and Elizabeth and Chick Squire, contributing editors. All will continue under Studenc. Liz Squire is expected to continue as a contributor of features to The News Record for the foreseeable future.—C.B.S.

Three new county commissioners are to be selected among Democrats Bobby Capps, John Hensley, Reese Steen, and Republicans Clarence Cutshall, Clarence Faulkner, and Bob Phillips.

Running for the two school board seats for District 1 are Democrat incumbents Franklin Anderson and Gerald Young, challenged by Republicans Joseph Godwin and Ed Krause. In District 2, the three seats now held by Democrat incumbents Ed Gentry, Bobby Ponder and Floyd Wallin, are being sought by Republicans James Baker, Jimmy Dean Hensley, and Mike Jenkins.

Residents in the western portion of the county, including Marshall, will vote for the District 2 candidates. Those living in Petersburg, Mars Hill and other East Madison communities will vote for District 1.

Long-time Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder, Democrat, is being challenged by Republican Dedrick Brown. Brown filled the vacated Sheriff's post four years ago, but lost in the general election to Ponder.

The current Tax Collector's position held by Harold Wallin, Democrat, is being sought by Republican Betty Wild. Wild is the former mayor of Marshall.

A pair of Cody's, not related, are seeking the Clerk of Court position. Democrat incumbent James Cody is being challenged by Republican Doyle Cody.

Three state constitutional amendments are also on the ballot, as well as a number of judicial seats to be filled. The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Madison County is broken into 12 precincts with polling places as follows: (1)North Marshall-- Madison High; (2)South Marshall-- Marshall Elementary; (3)Laurel-- Laurel Elementary; (4)Mars Hill-- Mars Hill Elementary; (5)Beech Glen-- Greater Ivy Community Center; (6)Walnut-- Walnut Elementary; (7)Hot Springs-- Hot Springs Elementary; (8)Ebbs Chapel-- Ebbs Chapel Community Center; (9)Spring Creek-- Spring Creek Elementary; (10)Sandy Mush-- Election Bldg. near Reeves Grocery; (11)Grapevine-- Coates Store at Petersburg; and (12)Revere-Rice Cove-- the old Gunter's Grocery.



Bill Studenc  
... becomes editor

## Where's The Money Hidden?

# Ghosts, Gold At Little Pine

By ELIZABETH D. SQUIRE

Ben Frisby Jr. of Rector Corner, Marshall, tells such vivid and amazing eyewitness stories about ghostly happenings at the site of the old Chunn's stock-stand that, for some, he offers a Robert L. Ripley-type warning—believe it or not.

The stock-stand, on what was once the Buncombe Turnpike, is now stone chimneys in ruins off in the woods, just across from Little Pine Creek. But Ben Frisby remembers the house when it was still standing—a part-log, part-plank house with a porch all around the first floor and porches on two sides of the second floor. And the inside was comfortable with huge stone fireplaces and walls finished with dressed lumber.

Once there were three stories, back when the house served as a stagecoach stop and stock-stand. That was from about 1830 or 1840 until it was sold to Ben's great-grandmother, Rachel Frisby, in about 1874.

In those days there were about 18 guestrooms where drovers could spend the night after they saw in feed for their cattle and care for their horses. (There are estimates that as many as 100,000 animals—turkeys, geese, sheep, cattle—might pass through a stock-stand in a single day.) All up the hillside near the

Chunn house there were pens for the animals, back then. By the time Ben knew the house, the pens were gone and the top floor had been removed.

Ben's father grew up in this house, which had room for several generations of the family, and his grandfather ran a store nearby even after the family no longer lived in the old stock-stand.

And nobody in the family was afraid of the strange happenings there, Ben says, because his grandfather and his father seemed so sure that whatever was haunting the place would not harm the Frisbys. In fact, Ben's grandfather John, a ferryman and sometime bounty-hunter who always dressed entirely in black, did not seem to be afraid of anything, Ben recalls.

Ben's father was entirely relaxed about the strange light that sometimes appeared, always in summer. Ben and his father would be sitting on logs in the woodyard where the family cut wood. Just as sure as it got damp before a rain on a dark night, he recalls, his father would say that "the Old Woman should be out tonight." And then, as a light about the size and shape of a candle-flame and about two feet tall the ground came toward them, he'd say "there's the Old Woman."

Sometimes they would see the light

come up the river toward the dam. Sometimes it would come within 20 feet of them as they sat in the woodyard and his father would throw wood-chips at it. The light didn't seem to be affected by the wood-chips in any way. "Sometimes I've watched it 30 or 40 minutes," said Ben. "I've never seen swamp-gas burn like that. It was not like foxfire. It would move here and there and finally go away down the branch, down the river out of sight."

The light had a quality about it a little like the Brown Mountain lights, which he has seen a number of times, he says—except that the Brown Mountain lights are shaped like a gas lantern and often obscured by fog.

(For more about the Brown Mountain lights, and the legend that they are related to two murders, see "Folk-Ways" column elsewhere in this issue of The News Record.—Ed.)

The Old Woman was shaped like a flickering candle-flame, Ben recalls. He saw it last in the 1920s when his grandfather was still alive, Ben says.

After the Frisby family moved out and the former stock-stand was closed up but not yet sold, Ben went by the building with his mother one day and they saw a tall man in a blue serge suit come around the corner of the house and step up on the porch

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ALL OUT FOR HALLOWE'EN is Nikki Edwards of Main Street, Weaverville, whose yard also has a life-size witch and a graveyard.

## State Agents Looking At 'Irregularity' Reports

Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation are in Madison County this week looking into allegations of voting irregularities, and will be in the county through Election Day next Tuesday, The News Record has learned.

Charles Dunn of the SBI in Raleigh said Tuesday that two SBI agents are currently in the county.

County District Attorney James T. Risher said the SBI investigators are looking into specific allegations of voting irregularities, in both the primary and the upcoming election next Tuesday, and are "not part of a fishing expedition." The irregularities "may have already occurred" or "may be occurring now in Madison County," Risher said.

The investigation, said Risher, "was requested by me as a result of

specific complaints made to officials of the Madison County Board of Elections, and will continue as long as there appears a legitimate need." He said no charges have been brought as of Wednesday morning.

William Powell, chairman of the Board of Elections, confirmed that at least one request for an investigation came from his board and involved both the primary and the upcoming election.

Neither Risher nor Powell would say anything further, although, Powell said, "I'd like to." Risher said any further disclosure by the SBI might hurt the investigation.

Risher said that anyone acting "honestly and legally for the purpose of furthering his political party or candidates and causes has nothing to fear from this investigation."

## Debbie Cutshall Acquitted

In Superior Court session held last week in Marshall, Debbie Cutshall, of Greeneville, Tenn. was found innocent of charges of accessory to breaking and entering, larceny, and conspiracy. The case dates back to November 29 of last year when Isaac "Junior" Gunter, and Jeffrey Bullman were shot and killed by Odell Cook while attempting to break

into his store in Belva. Debbie Cutshall, the girlfriend of Gunter, was apprehended by Sheriff Ponder later that evening as she drove by the area.

Testimony given at the trial left doubt as to her complicity in the crime.

Upon her arrest in November she claimed to have taken the two men hunting and awaited their return at a spot along Cook Farm Rd. near the home of Arville Gunter. She said she stayed in the car from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and went looking for them when they didn't return.

Cutshall later changed her statement, saying she had instead taken the two to Love Gunter's house where she fell asleep around midnight. She said she was later woken by Love Gunter who told her he had taken the two to the Little Laurel area to go hunting and they hadn't returned. She claimed he asked her to take his car and go look for them.

It was the differences in the two initial accounts that left the district attorney's office dubious of Cutshall's possible involvement.

"Someone had obviously taken the two over to Cook's store," said Asst. District Attorney James Baker. "Debbie Cutshall was driving a car back and forth in front of the store, its license plate removed and a set of keys in the trunk. Together with her two different accounts we felt we had a reasonably good case."

It was testimony by Love Gunter and Irene Gunter, wife of Arville Gunter, that raised doubt in the jury's mind.

Contradicting Debbie Cutshall's story, Love Gunter testified that the two men were at his house but left after dark and he didn't want to see the next morning. On some occasions by Cutshall's attorney, Joseph Hill, Cutshall was asked to testify that he had gotten into the car

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## Community Calendar

### Democratic Fish-Fry

The Democrats will hold a fish-fry on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Marshall Elementary School on the Island. Entertainment will be furnished by the Boone Brothers. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Transportation To Polls

Transportation to the polling places in Madison County on Election Day will be provided by call 649-2103.

### Rummage Sale

The First Marshall Freewill Baptist Church and the Shoal Hill Freewill Baptist Church will co-sponsor a rummage sale Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and Nov. 3 in the Jackie Ball Building in Marshall.

### League To Meet Monday

The Madison County League of Women Voters will meet Monday, Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. at the home of Nancy Lippard and Ruth Smith in Hot Springs. Those wishing to attend should call 622-7237 or 689-5722.

### RSP Meeting

The Madison County unit of Retired School Personnel will meet Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall bypass. Lucille Burnette will be in charge of the program.

### Spring Creek Party

A Halloween party for the children of Spring Creek Community will be at the fire department from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31.