



The

# MOUNTAIN EAGLE

IT SCREAMS! Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky, Thursday, May 2, 1963 Vol. 55, No. 51

## County to get courthouse grant

The federal Community Facilities Administration agreed this week to give Letcher County \$351,000 and to lend it an additional \$191,000 to finance construction of a new courthouse.

The project, which will cost a total of \$542,000, should be under construction in July, according to wires from Rep. Carl Perkins and Sen. John Sherman Cooper.

The money is part of the Accelerated Public Works program, designed to relieve unemployment in distressed areas.

County Judge James M. Caudill said he will hold a public meeting soon to get the ideas of citizens on the courthouse and to present these ideas to the architect.

The new building will include quarters for county officials, for the officials of Letcher Circuit Court, and for the Letcher County Public Library as well as a new jail. The present jail will be demolished, and a new county health center will be built on the site, Caudill said.

The loan from CFA may be repaid over 40 years, Caudill reported. He indicated a new tax will not be necessary because the loan can be retired from rent paid from county offices. Earlier Caudill had said he thought a new tax would be necessary to finance local share of the courthouse building. County offices do not now pay rent, and Caudill did not say what part of the already tight county budget the rental fees would come from. At 4 per cent interest, interest alone on the loan would run more than \$7,000 a year for a while.

Caudill said the building would also provide quarters for state and federal agencies which desire the space.

The application for the grant and loan was prepared by Urban Affairs Associates of Louisville, which is also serving as urban renewal consultant to the City of Whitesburg. The firm did the work free on condition it would be the architect if the project was approved.

The firm's concept of the new courthouse, which will be built on the site of the present building, called for a street-level parking area, topped by a plaza from which the county and circuit court offices would be entered. The jail and library entrances would be at street level too.

However, the grant and loan received are less than half what the county's application requested. When Fiscal Court voted to apply for the money last November, the total cost of the courthouse was estimated at \$1,876,500.



JAMES WOOD

## Wood wins study grant

James Wood, a Fleming-Neon High School senior, has won one of 40 Department of Highway scholarships for freshmen at the University of Kentucky.

Each year the scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who will enter college to study civil engineering with emphasis on highway engineering.

Wood, an honor student, was selected on the basis of his high school record and of scores on a college qualification test.

He will receive a summer job with the department at \$230 a month and will receive \$95 a month to pay his college expenses.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wood of Fleming.

## Board plans suit

The Letcher County Board of Education voted at a special meeting Monday to hire an attorney to file suit in the name of a citizen to test the legality of the board's recent action rescinding an earlier redistricting order.

The board said it would employ Atty. John C. Angellis of Lexington and would ask Whitesburg Atty. Harry M. Caudill to help him if necessary.

The motion was made by Ray Collins and was approved by Arnold Hall and Chairman Kerney Day.

Dr. B. F. Wright and Kern Whitaker voted against the motion. Dr. Wright asked Caudill, who was present at the meeting, if the board could legally hire an attorney to file a suit against it. Caudill said he thought the board could hire an attorney only to defend itself in a legal action.

## Presbyterians will take over UMW hospitals

The United Presbyterian Church JSA will buy all 10 United Mine Workers hospitals if it can obtain federal funds to help pay for them.

The church announced its decision Wednesday afternoon after several days of negotiations between church officials and the Miners Memorial Hospital Association in Washington, D. C.

The church indicated it will take over operation of the five hospitals in Kentucky--those in Whitesburg, Hazard, Harlan, McDowell and Middlesboro--by Oct. 1 of this year. The other five, located at Mann, Beckley, Williamson and Charleston, W. Va., and Wise, Va., will be transferred by July 1, 1964.

The hospital association and the church issued this statement:

"The Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church USA and the Miners Memorial Hospital Association have reached an understanding that the church will create a regional Hospital Authority for the purpose of contracting for the sale and transfer of the ten Memorial Hospitals of the Association. The United Presbyterian Church is actively seeking funds from the United States Area Redevelopment Administration to complete the purchase of the hospitals at a fair price and is acting on the commitment of Governor Combs of the State of Kentucky to call a special session of the legislature to deal with problems of continued operation of the hospitals.

"It is the intention of the parties that the transition of operation will be gradual, with complete transfer of the five hospitals (in Kentucky) not later than Oct. 1, 1963. The remaining five hospitals . . . will be transferred before July 1, 1964."

Gov. Bert Combs announced Wednesday that he will call a special session of the General Assembly to consider hospital problems, probably around June 1.

The legislature is expected to ease qualifications for state medical aid, thus enabling more people to use the hospital facilities.

The Area Redevelopment Administration has not indicated publicly whether it will grant money toward the hospital purchase, but a by-lined story in the Washington Post last Sunday reported that ARA had made up its mind to help. The money would come from a \$75,000,000 appropriation to ARA to be used to help communities hold businesses which

create unemployment problems by closing.

Neither the church nor the union would discuss the proposed purchase price of the hospitals, other than to say it would be "fair."

A union spokesman indicated that if negotiations with the ARA fall through, the association could go ahead and close all the Kentucky hospitals but the Harlan one by July 1, the deadline set earlier.

The action of the church this week is the first major Protestant missionary movement in Eastern Kentucky since the establishment of the settlement schools in the early part of the century. It is the largest Protestant undertaking in Southeastern Kentucky in history.

There is no congregation of the United Presbyterian Church USA in Letcher County, but there is a large one in Harlan County and several smaller ones in Perry County. The United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church USA (known also as the Northern Presbyterian Church) merged several years ago to become the United Presbyterian Church USA. The Presbyterian Church USA (the Southern branch), which includes the congregations in Letcher County) is considering merging with the Northern group also. The split dates back to the Civil War. In Southeastern Kentucky, the two branches operate a great deal of their work jointly.

The United Presbyterian Church operates several large hospitals in the East, but only one--Jane Cook Hospital at Frenchburg--in Kentucky at present.

## A-program May 13

A demonstration program, titled "This Atomic World," will be presented at Whitesburg High School Monday, May 13.

The program is sponsored by the US Atomic Energy Commission and presented by the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## Mountain Parkway will be dedicated

The 43-mile section of the Mountain Parkway from Winchester to Campton will be dedicated in special ceremonies May 8.

The ceremony will begin at the Campton end at 2 p. m. From there a motorcade will go west along the highway to seven other ribbon-cutting spots.



STEPHEN TERRY HALL



TERRY CORNETT

## Best spellers named

Stephen Terry Hall, a Letcher School eighth grade student, won the annual Letcher County spelling bee held here Saturday.

Terry Cornett of Whitesburg took second place, and Vickie Lynn Strunk of Fleming-Neon was third.

The winners received dictionaries and cash prizes.

Other students who participated and the schools they represented were Burnis Bradley, Hurricane Gap; Maylene Halcomb, Campbell's Branch; Charlotte Raleigh, Bolivia; Ike Reece Adams, Blain

Branch; Wanda Sue Tyree, Middle Dry Fork; Billy Hatton, Marlowe; Wilma Jean Brown, Ermine; Sharon Joy Wiggs, Mayking; Venia Couch, Upper Colly; Pauline Collins, Thornton; Betty Jo Taylor, Colson; Shirley Bentley, Hemphill; Karen Martin, Millstone; Linda Ison, Hot Spot; Yvonne Watts, Kingdom Come Settlement; Marcia Ann Proffitt, Cow Branch; Lynette Dixon, Blackey; Wanda Faye Caudill, Doty; Nancy Louise Caudill, Upper Cowan.

## Floyd college pushed

The state took steps this week to speed up construction of a community college in Prestonsburg, hometown of Gov. Bert Combs.

The Floyd County Times, Prestonsburg, said it has learned the state Finance Department had changed architects on the proposed building to save several months of planning time.

The department, the paper said, has terminated its contract with Architects G. L.

Shannon, Prestonsburg, and Jack F. Hatcher, Pikeville, who had been designing the building. Instead of having new or separate plans drawn for the Prestonsburg site, plans previously prepared for a junior college at Elizabethtown will be used.

"A Department of Finance spokesman said Wednesday that the department has been in communication with the University of Kentucky, Dr. Frank Dickey, its president, and Dr. R. D. Johnson, dean of extended pro-

grams, and that all were in agreement as to the procedure necessary to avoid long delay and a cost figure would exceed the funds available," the paper said.

There has been no indication as to whether state government and University officials plan similar steps to speed action upon the proposed Letcher County Community College. Presumably, the same course of action could be followed to speed the Letcher College.

## Council to meet

Economic problems will loom large in the regional meeting of the Council of the Southern Mountains at Hindman on May 11.

The 200 people expected to attend the meeting will have their thinking directed toward welfare in its broadest sense, of the welfare of all Eastern Kentucky people. Discussions will center around the future of welfare programs, employment, migration, education and related areas. The purpose of the meeting is to inform and challenge Eastern Kentucky leaders and to stimulate thought and action.

Earl Mayhew, Rural Sociologist of Lexington, will address the morning session; Earle V. Powell, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Economic Security, will speak in the afternoon. P. F. Ayer, Executive Secretary of the Council, will summarize the day's deliberations and issue a challenge.

Presiding officers will be the Rev. Samuel Vander Meer and William R. Miller, respectively president and vice president of the Kentucky Regional Group. James Gayheart, student at Alice Lloyd College, will preside over the Youth Section.