

Randy -  
Here's some more -

12/14/83

Penny

# Commission Chairman Turns Over Gavel

By CLARKE MORRISON  
Record Staff Writer

LENOIR — Alden E. Starnes replaced Kenneth R. Moore as chairman of the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

The vote to elect Starnes, formerly the vice chairman, was unanimous.

Moore, who served as chairman since he was elected to the commission three years ago, said he refused to accept the chairmanship for a fourth year because of a recent job promotion which requires he spend more time out of town.

In a split vote along party lines, the board selected Commissioner G. Stewart Kirby to replace Starnes as vice chairman.

Democrat R. Donnie Goodale nominated Jerry N. Brooks, the board's second Democrat, for vice chairman. Moore nominated Kirby.

Moore, Starnes and Kirby, all Republicans, voted for Kirby, while



Alden E. Starnes

Brooks and Goodale voted for Brooks.

Moore said he favored Starnes to replace him as chairman because of his 11 years experience on the commission and because "he knows the meaning of work."

"Tonight, as we begin a new commission year and select new leaders, I choose not to serve as chairman or vice chairman of the board," Moore said.

"As each of you know, my job responsibilities at Broyhill Furniture Industries have recently changed to the role of sales manager of the upholstery division," he said. "In this capacity, additional time must be spent away from home, on the road and away from Caldwell County."

Moore said the county and its government would better be served by a commission chairman and vice chairman who are "more accessible than what I may be at certain times."

"I will, however, complete my term of office as county commissioner to the best of my ability and with the faith bestowed in me by the people of our great county," he said.

"Over the last three years, I have tried to move our county toward more professional, more businesslike and more efficient government," Moore said. "I am pleased with our progress and will work diligently to continue in this direction."

"I want especially to thank my fellow commissioners, our county department heads and employees and the people of Caldwell County for this most rewarding, gratifying and learning experience."

Starnes said it is "with gladness and sadness too that I accept the chairmanship of this board. He (Moore) has done an outstanding job to lead Caldwell County to the position that it's in."

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart (for choosing him to replace Moore)," Starnes said.


In another matter, the board decided to make no changes in the Ridge Law adopted by this year's General Assembly.

The law, which went into effect July 1, prohibits construction of buildings at elevations of more than 3,000 feet and 500 feet above a valley floor, said County Planner Barry Warren.

Warren said the commissioners have the option of making the regulations more stringent if they take action by Jan. 1.

However, little of Caldwell County is affected by the Ridge Law, he said. Only the northern areas of the county have elevations higher than 3,000 feet, he said.

**HARD OF HEARING**  
All In The Ear



Local Service To The Hard Of Hearing Since 1953. If Not Satisfied All Money Refunded After 30 Days.

Rudisill & Huggins, Inc.  
Maico Hearing Aid Service  
121 - 13th Street, SW Hickory, N.C.  
Phone 322-6281

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

**Matchdown**



# Burke Board Accepts State's Ridge Law

By SUSAN MARSCHALK  
Record Staff Writer

MORGANTON — Burke County will not have a more stringent ridge law than that proposed by state legislation, county commissioners decided Tuesday night.

In a 4-1 vote following a public hearing on the matter, commissioners agreed to take no action, which left as they are the state requirements scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

Commission Chairman James B. Cates cast the dissenting vote.

The state law will apply to ridges more than 3,000 feet in elevation that rise above an adjacent valley floor. The law limits buildings to be constructed on those ridges to 40 feet in height.

Commissioners had an option to impose stricter measures by applying the height limitation to ridges that rise 500 feet or more above an adjacent valley floor.

During the public hearing, Brian Simpson said most Burke County ridges over 3,000 feet already are protected as part of the National Forest lands.

He supported the stricter limitation, as did Dr.

Gresham Orrison, a member of the Morganton Planning and Zoning Commission.

Orrison said commissioners had the opportunity to deal with potential problems — such as that which faced Morganton councilmen Monday in rezoning to accommodate a retirement center — before the problems arise.

Morganton councilmen rezoned land Monday to allow a five-story retirement center to be built on a knoll northeast of the Kirksey Drive and N.C. 18 intersection. Many residents of the area objected to the center, saying its location on the knoll would block the view of surrounding mountains.

John Middleton of the South Mountains Sierra Club and June Hollingsworth of the Burke County Chamber of Commerce also favored the stricter limitation.

Bob Poovey told commissioners he has worked hard for his ridge property and does not believe people have the right to tell him what to do with it.

Imposing stricter limitations may open the way for people to object to buildings they find unsightly based on personal opinion, he said.

"It's a can of worms you're opening up, and God knows

what you're going to do with it," Poovey said.

County Planner Steve Erikson said ridges that would be affected by removing the 3,000-foot altitude requirement are High Peak, Burkemont and Mineral Springs mountains, as well as some ridges in the South Mountains.

The county Planning Board recommended adopting the stricter limitations.

Commissioners voting to take no action to eliminate the 3,000-foot altitude requirement said they did not wish to impose on the rights of property owners.

In other business, commissioners delayed action on the Jacquard Mills property near the Burke County Courthouse until they have an opportunity to visit and thoroughly examine the building and site.

Past motions concerning the property have included selling it, keeping it for storage or demolishing it because it is an eyesore and a hazard, commissioners said.

Two bids of about \$11,000 for demolishing the building and preparing the site for other uses were submitted this week. The county, however, has not formally advertised for bids, said County Manager James E. Haynes.

Commissioner Bob E. Williamson requested that the

matter be placed on the agenda for the Dec. 20 meeting, saying deliberations have continued long enough.

In another matter, commissioners acted on a Board of Education request that was tabled at the Nov. 15 meeting.

The commission approved the transfer of \$5,000 from an account for contracted services to an account set up for junior high school construction.

The money is to be used for services such as soil borings and architectural retainer fees.

Commissioners stipulated that the money must be returned to the account for contracted services when revenues from the recently adopted local-option 1-cent sales tax come in Feb. 16.

Revenues from the tax will fund construction of four new junior high schools for 10 years or until \$20 million is collected.

At that time, a 34 percent share of the revenues will revert to the county's municipalities. The county's share of revenues will go to public schools indefinitely.

The board also approved the annual audit for fiscal year 1982-83.