

# THE NEWS - RECORD

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## Rep. L.B. Ramsey Looms As Likely Speaker Of House

By JAY HENSLEY  
Citizen-Times Staff Writer  
Rep. John S. Stevens of Asheville pulled out of the contest for Speaker of the House in the 1974 General Assembly Saturday, and a drive was launched immediately to put Rep. Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall into the race.



REPRESENTATIVE  
L.B. RAMSEY

Stevens had gained considerable support among House members in the 1974 General Assembly for the speakership, but he told those committed to him in a letter Saturday that he will not seek the post.

The announcement by Stevens started a groundswell of support across the state for Ramsey, a veteran legislator now serving as chairman of the House Finance Committee.

If Ramsey accepts the draft — and it appeared likely Saturday that he will — it would probably put him in a contest with Rep. Carl J. Stewart Jr. of Gastonia and Rep. William T. Watkins of Oxford.

Stewart is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Watkins is House majority leader.

Ramsey, like Stewart, is a member of the Advisory Budget Commission and has a finger in virtually everything going on in state government. They serve on the budget commission by virtue of their offices as chairmen of the General Assembly's money committees.

Ramsey has served a dozen years in the legislature, and his record has been increasingly, especially in the last two sessions.

The state highway reorganization under the administration of Gov. Jim Holshouser was largely the work of Ramsey and Rep. Jimmy Green of Bladen County. Green has been tapped for Speaker of the House in 1975.

One seasoned observer said Saturday that he feels the Madison County legislator could provide the leadership needed in the General Assembly, and that Ramsey

would win without a bitter contest.

Rep. Herschel S. Harkins of Asheville, once considered a likely contender for the speakership himself, said when he received Stevens' letter Saturday, "I'm 110 per cent behind Liston."

Harkins said he had talked with a number of legislative and political leaders just hours after he received the letter from Stevens, and all were in solid support of Ramsey.

Ramsey, who has not yet committed himself to the race, is assured of Democratic support in the East as well as in the mountains and Pied-

mont, Harkins said. Harkins told Reps. Ernest B. Messer of Canton and Glenn A. Morris of Marion that he will change his plans to run for the Senate and try again for the House instead if Ramsey will seek the speakership.

"I feel that strongly about getting some leadership in the General Assembly," Harkins said.

Ramsey had been a strong supporter of Stevens for Speaker, and was co-chairman, along with Rep. Herbert L. Hyde of Asheville of the Stevens campaign.

Stevens sent out letters to 25 members of the House who last January and February indicated their support for him in 1977.

"I am writing you and all the others to tell you of my decision reached very painfully and thoughtfully over the last two or three weeks to not seek the Speakership in 1977," he said.

Stevens said his decision was not based on any concern that the race could not be won, but rather on the fact that responsibility to his family and law practice has ruled out a commitment to remain in the General Assembly through the 1977 session.

"As you know, I have three small boys, a wife and five law partners — all of whom have been far too patient for much too long," Stevens told his supporters.

He said that while he does intend to run for the 1975 General Assembly because of previous commitments made, he does not expect to seek reelection after that session.

Morris said he had been in contact with Ramsey since receiving the letter from Stevens.

"I think we've got him thinking seriously about it. House members from other parts of the state are also calling him," Morris said.

"And I believe it's the best chance for our section in a long time," Morris said.



SUZANNE HIGGINS, almost two, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Higgins, of Mars Hill, was one of the children featured in the 1974 calendar page in last Sunday's Asheville Citizen-Times.



PATRICK SHON HOYLE, two, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hoyle, of Marshall, was among the children featured on the Calendar page of the Asheville Citizen-Times Sunday. Mrs. Hoyle is employed at the Citizens Bank here.

## Basketball Results

Mountain Athletic newcomer Madison High swept a pair of games at East Yancey Friday night as the Patriot boys stopped the Panthers 52-41 and the Madison girls won 58-28.

Jim Roberts had game high in the boys bout with 20 and teammates Harold Wood and Jacky Robinson also hit two digits. Ronnie Biggerstaff paced the Panthers with 17.

The Patriot girls, ranked second, rode 19 points by Yvonne Coates, 17 by Linda Robinson and 10 by Lynn Plemmons in recording their eighth straight win.

Marsha Young was high for East Yancey with seven points.

Hudson ran its season record to 8-1 on 18 points by Terry Shoemaker and 16 by Doug Gilliam in 57-38 Hraite Falls.

The Hudson girls were not so fortunate as Adonna Hickman paced the Granite Falls girls with 23 points for a 34-45 win.

### MADISON — EAST YANCEY BOYS

MADISON (52) — Roberts 20, Wood 10, Freeman 8, Robinson 14, Treadway, Bentley

EAST YANCEY (41) — J. Biggerstaff 12, R. Biggerstaff 17, J. Hughes 3, Jo. Hughes 5, Byrd 4, D. Hughes, Bailey.

### GIRLS

MADISON (58) — Robinson 17, Coates 19, Plemmons 10, Davis 1, Hensley 4, Waldrop, Reed 4, Yelton, Greene, Landers 2, Harrell.

EAST YANCEY (28) — Parker 6, Gouge 2, Allen 2, Robinson 7, ...

## FHA Loan Funds Allocated For North Carolina

James T. Johnson, State Director, Farmers Home Administration, announced today that the allocation of rural development funds for North Carolina for fiscal year 1974 will amount to \$152,565,000.

The Farmers Home Administration serves farmers with farm ownership, operating and emergency credit, rural residents and towns of up to 10,000 population with housing and community facility loans. In towns below 50,000 or open

country, loans are available to develop business and industry.

The current allocation of FHA's farmer programs in North Carolina is \$24,500,000. An apportionment of \$100,000 was made for farm emergency loans, with the proviso that emergency loans in amounts necessary to meet the needs of that program be provided.

Under the community services program, an allocation of \$20,490,000 has

been made for water and waste, community facilities, and industrial development grants.

The business and industrial loan program has an allotment of \$9,125,000. Preapplications are now being received for this new loan program.

The allocation for rural housing is \$98,350,000 for the program, including grants for construction and rental.

A recent change in the rural housing program will enable the Farmers Home Ad-

ministration to assist a greater number of rural residents across North

Carolina, according to State Director Johnson. The change in eligibility requirements raises the maximum adjusted

family income from \$9,300 to \$9,600.

Although final allocation has just been completed, the fiscal year started with July 1, 1973 loans have been made against these now-official totals Johnson said.

## Postal Rate Hikes Delayed Until March 2

The U. S. Postal Service said it will postpone rate increases scheduled for Jan. 5 until March 2 in compliance with a Cost of Living Council directive.

That means the price of mailing a first-class letter will remain eight cents for another two months before going up to a dime.

The Cost of Living Council week ago told the Postal Service to trim back the amount of the proposed increases but ordered no changes in the new rate structure. The reduction could be accomplished by delaying

the rate hikes rather than reducing them, the council said.

The Postal Service had expected to raise annual revenue by \$1.54 billion by starting the rate increases Jan. 5. But the council said that should be reduced by \$236 million.

In addition to the boost in letter rates, the Postal Service will raise the cost of mailing a post card from six cents to eight cents and the cost of an airmail letter from 11 cents to 13 cents.

There are numerous other increases for second, third and fourth class mail.

## County Schools To Shift To "Sun Time"

R. L. Edwards, superintendent of Madison County schools, stated this week that schools in the Madison County system will shift to "Sun Time" on Monday, January 7, the first day that the recently enacted Federal Daylight Savings Time bill would affect them.

Mr. Edwards said that county school officials have

decided to alter the "clock" starting time for the schools so as to remain on the same "Sun Time" as at present.

Under Daylight Savings time clocks will be advanced an hour on January 6, putting the nation on year-round Daylight Savings Time. "The county schools will get around the early opening hours by delaying the opening of schools one hour by the clock under Daylight Savings Time. This in effect, will have the schools open during the same daylight hours as currently," Mr. Edwards explained.

"The shift to D.S.T. will be reviewed again by school officials at a later date," Mr. Edwards stated.

## Jonah Massey Dies Following Altercation

Jonah Massey, 86-year-old retired farmer of the Anderson Branch section of Madison County, died about 4 a.m. Tuesday in Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville from injuries received in an altercation near an establishment on the Marshall Bypass about 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

Sheriff F. Y. Ponder

reported that Jerry Dale Hunter, 28, of the Walnut Creek section of Marshall, is being held in Madison County jail charged with murder.

Also injured in the affray was Cordell Massey, 45, of Marshall, son of the deceased. He is recovering at his home from a broken arm, lacerations of the face and a broken rib, the sheriff said.

Hunter received an arm and back injury in the incident, Ponder said. In addition to the murder charge, Hunter is also charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill Cordell Massey. Ponder said.

According to Ponder, the altercation apparently began over the parking of a car at the establishment. Ponder said that Hunter is charged with striking the elder Massey with a pipe. An autopsy was to be performed to determine the exact cause of death.

Ponder said the three men were treated at Memorial Mission Hospital the night of Dec. 22 and released, with the elder Massey being readmitted a couple of days later.

Hunter, initially charged with assault with a deadly weapon, has been released on bail. However he was returned to jail Tuesday morning following the death of the elder Massey and is being held without bond, the sheriff said.

Ponder said there were several persons who witnessed the incident.

**FUNERAL THURSDAY** Services for Massey were held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Anderson Branch Freewill Baptist Church. The Revs. Richard Watts and G. Y. Burgin officiated. Burial was in Bowman-Rector Cemetery. Grandsons were pallbearers.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Ida Wells, Mrs. Ruby Davis and Mrs. Hazel Randall of Marshall; four sons, Cordell and

Clarence Massey of Marshall, Chester Massey of Detroit, Mich. and Bruce Massey of Weaverville, a half brother. Everett Ramsey of Long Island, N.Y., 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

## Shrubbery Sales During January By 4-H'ers

The month of January has been designated as shrubbery sales month for Madison County 4-H'ers. During the month 4-H members will be

distributing order forms which contain a listing of the different items which may be ordered along with the price of each item. These order forms may be filled out by the

customer and returned to the 4-H'er who will return them to the Extension Office for processing. The shrubbery will arrive in bare root form except where otherwise specified on the order form. Plans are for the shrubbery to arrive in early March. Each customer will be notified by mail of the exact time and place orders may be picked up.

The purpose for having the shrubbery sales is to offer the people of Madison County an economical source of planting materials for landscaping their homes while the proceeds go to supplement the 4-H club organization in Madison County. The money will be used to pay expenses for 4-H'ers attending different contests and activities.

Orders may be given to 4-H members in your community or you may call the Extension Office at 649-2411 or mail to P. O. Box 336, Marshall. Listed elsewhere in this paper is a detailed price list.

## Telephone Promotions Announced

Norman L. Gum of Sycamore, Ill. has been promoted to President of Western Carolina and Westco Telephone Companies by the Continental Telephone System.

Gum has been in the telephone business for more than twenty-eight years. He joined Continental Telephone System in 1963 as District Plant Manager, and in 1970 was promoted to State Plant Manager in Sycamore, Ill. Norman and his wife Lillian are natives of Southern Illinois. They plan to move to

Weaverville in the near future.

Nancy Blankenship of Burnsville has been promoted to business office supervisor in Weaverville by the Western Carolina Telephone Company.

Nancy has been in the telephone business for more than five years. She joined Westco Telephone Company in 1967 as a service representative in Burnsville.

A native of Yancey County, Nancy attended Cane River High School. She and her husband, Kenneth, live in Burnsville.



J. OPIE WELLS, of Brevard, formerly of Madison County where he served as county superintendent of schools and principal of the Spring Creek and Walnut high schools, retired last week as Chief Prosecutor of the Transylvania County District Court. He has served as Clerk of the Transylvania Superior Court and as Assistant District Attorney for the last five years. Mr. Wells was presented a plaque in commemoration of his long service during a special Ceremonial Session of court in Brevard. After leaving Madison County, Mr. Wells was Personnel Director at Ecusta Corp., for many years, before starting his practice as an attorney.

## 4-H Dance Saturday Night

The Madison County 4-H Council will sponsor a dance Saturday, January 5 at 8 p.m. in the Marshall Community Center.

Music will be furnished by the TNT Band from Charlotte, N. C. Admission will be \$5 per couple or \$1 per person. All Madison County 4-H'ers and their guests and parents of 4-H'ers are invited to attend and enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment.

## Girl Scout Happenings

In Laurel, eleven girls have started having Girl Scout meetings with 3 high school seniors as leaders. The Scouts and their leaders are really having a ball. Is this Marshall's answer to the Girl Scout movement?

## 4-H County Council Met

The Madison County 4-H Council met Thursday December 27 to wrap up the old year and welcome the new year's events. A meeting was planned to work on cumulative records, which show a 4-H'ers achievements in a project during the past year or in a number of year's

shrubbery has been organized to boost the Madison County 4-H Fund. The next county council meeting has been planned for February.

## Return From England

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Rector of Redmon Road, Marshall, have returned to their home after making a trans-Atlantic flight to London, England. They spent Christmas vacation of three weeks with their son-in-law, daughter and family, T-Sgt. and Mrs. Frank Treadway, Tommy, Donna and David at Chicksands Royal Air Force Base in Bedford, England.

While on the trip they visited many other points of interest. "We had a wonderful trip and enjoyed the plane trip immensely," Mrs. Rector stated.

## Singing

Special singing will be held this Saturday night at the Dry Branch Free Will Baptist Church beginning at seven o'clock. Featured will be the Hansel Hensley singers. The public is cordially invited.

## Just A Woman's Observations

By DOROTHY BRIGMAN SHUPE

Well, I hope you had a lovely Christmas and I wish for you a very good 1974! As I write this on Monday, the last day of the year, I'm wondering if the weatherman is going to be right as he said we will get snow tonight. Don't know why it wasn't here for Christmas, but maybe the kiddies are asking for snow so we won't have to get back to school Wednesday! I've enjoyed being off, but I'm about to get "cabin fever" and about ready to get back to work. But, I wouldn't cry, if early Wednesday morning I hear "No School." I would probably be as happy as the students!

I read someplace a good idea about writing checks in the new year. Just put '74 on several ahead of time and you will gradually get used to the new year! We don't have any big plans for the evening—guess we'll just let it slip in and be happy we got through 1973!

Gee, I haven't written since my birthday! I didn't coerce my students this year for parties—but they came through anyway. One of my good friends told me to stop telling how old I am, because she is a month older than I and therefore people would know how old she is! Anyway, this is about the 19th year I've been

39, so if you can add, you'll know that I'm still a young woman!

My World History class surprised me with a lovely red rose, my senior English class boys gave me a desk set, my third period history class gave me a tea pitcher with cream and sugar set, and my freshmen gave me fruit. I think the instigators were Geraldine Branam, Rosa Dean Frisby, Debra Worley, Sharon Roberts, J. C. McIntyre, Charles Deaver, Tammy Green, Brenda Kent, Phyllis Buckner, Donna Davis, Billy Roberts, Carol Meadows, Sharon Teague, Teresa Cooper, Ann Lou Silver, Debbie Wilson, Teresa Clontz, Danny Plemmons, Billy Willingham, Ann Flynn and Linda Marler. Thanks to all my students for remembering a young woman of 39!

How do you feel about going on daylight saving time? I don't believe it will save fuel at all, rather, I believe, we will use more. We'll be adding it to the morning and starting classes before daylight. Maybe our legislature will exempt us from changing. I can remember a few years ago when Greenville, Tenn., was on central time and we would go over there and get there at the same time we had left home! Of course, when we came home, it really made a big difference!

Oh, Santa brought me a new bicycle. It is a three speed and I am having a time learning to ride with the brake on the handle bars. I almost panic when I try to brake with my feet and nothing happens! And I just don't touch the left brake for the front tire—I can just see me flying over the front should I do that!

**OBSERVED**—Glad Mrs. Tillery Buckner is back home from surgery in an Asheville hospital, hurry and get back to Sunday school—Enjoyed the sermon by the Rev. George Moore at our community fifth Sunday meeting at our church Sunday—He told a cute joke on Mary McClure—Have you watched many of the bowl games—I really liked to watch that Holloway quarterback from Tennessee, even though they lost—Thanks to Barbara Rice for remembering my birthday, she sent me a lovely card—Recon we'll get to see the comet soon and I look forward to it—How they figure that one is coming is beyond me—This holiday was rough on my diet—Gained about five pounds, it is harder to take off than put on—Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Carl Wallin on their fiftieth wedding anniversary—Guess I've written enough to make up for missing a few times—Have a good day!!!!!!