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Election '78

Veteran Legislators Want To Return To Raleigh

Liston Ramsey

Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall announced today that he will be a candidate for re-election to the North Carolina House of Representatives. If re-elected it will be his 10th term in the Legislature.

Rep. Ramsey, along with Rep. Ernest Messer of Canton, presently represents Haywood, Jackson, Madison and Swain counties in the N. C. House. During the past few sessions, Ramsey has served as chairman of several important committees. In 1969 Ramsey was chairman of the Local Government Committee and in 1971 served as chairman of the Legislative Redistricting Committee and was successful in drafting a bill that re-aligned the House

districts throughout the state. This was one of the few bills pertaining to legislative districts re-alignment in the entire nation that was never challenged in court. Rep. Ramsey served as chairman of the House Finance Committee during the 1973, 1974 and 1975 sessions.

Rep. Ramsey is credited with writing and pushing the balanced budget amendment to the constitution which was overwhelmingly approved by the voters of the state last November. He was also leader in the movement to restore a formula for funds to the mountain area for secondary roads. Efforts to reduce the funds were being made in the House when he gathered enough support to restore the extra money for the mountain area.



REP. LISTON B. RAMSEY

During the years Rep. Ramsey has been at the forefront in getting funds for the area by either sponsoring or co-sponsoring ap-

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Ernest Messer

Ernest Messer of Canton, veteran member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, announced today as a candidate for a ninth term in the North Carolina General Assembly.

He will run for one of the two seats in the 44th House District composed of Haywood, Jackson, Madison and Swain counties. Liston Ramsey of Marshall is the other incumbent representative.

During his current term in the General Assembly, Messer is serving as chairman of the first Committee on Aging ever to be created in the General Assembly. The committee, with Messer as chairman, was appointed by House Speaker Carl Stewart during the early days of the 1977 session of the General Assembly.

Under Messer's leadership, the Committee on Aging developed and sponsored legislation which established a permanent Division on Aging in the Department of Human Resources.

The committee also sponsored legislation for an improved homestead tax exemption for the elderly bills to permit senior citizen

to use school facilities and to permit municipalities to spend tax money to supplement programs for senior citizens, a bill of rights for patients in nursing homes and authorization for persons over 65 years of age to attend classes in the community college system without paying tuition.

Messer is currently chairman of an interim House-Senate Study Commission on Aging.

He is also a member of the Community College Advisory Council and is chairman of the council's sub-committee on Community College Budget Formulas.

During his eight terms in the General Assembly, Messer has been a member of the House Appropriations Committee and in 1971 was chairman of the Appropriations sub-committee on Health, Welfare and Institutional Care.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has supported the establishment of the Western Farmers Market, research programs for beef cattle and tomatoes, funding of the community college system, expanded health and mental health programs and the establishment of a state-wide kin-



REP. ERNEST MESSER

dergarten program.

During all except his first two terms in the House, Messer has been chairman of an important committee. These include, in addition to the Committee on Aging and the sub-committee on Appropriations, Manufacturers and Labor, election laws and insurance.

Messer is currently serving on the House committees of insurance, aging, appropriations, higher education

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DOWN THE SINK — 334 16-ounce cans of beer, confiscated during the past year by Marshall policemen and the Sheriff's department, were poured down the sink in the county jail last Thursday afternoon. 212 of the cans were captured on the Redmon Road and the other cans in various locations. Sheriff Ponder is shown holding a boxload of cans before handing them to Policeman John Ray who poured the beer down the sink. (News-Record Photo)

Parker Files For Superior Court Clerk

Samuel E. Parker, of Route 3, Mars Hill, this week announces his candidacy for Madison County Clerk of Superior Court in the May 3 Democratic primary.

Parker attended college in Johnson City, Tenn., where he obtained his degree. After college he chose to make Madison County his permanent home and has resided in the county for nearly 10

years. Parker worked for three years with the Madison County Department of Social Services where he had the opportunity to travel throughout the county. "These experiences convinced me that I wanted to make Madison County my permanent home," Parker stated.

He says he is proud to be a

Democrat and is going into this election with every intention of winning. "Should I be defeated by a fellow Democrat in the primary, I will be the first to congratulate him. He stresses party unity was essential for a Democratic victory."

Parker's formal announcement is published elsewhere in this issue.

Her Dream Comes True: Church Education Help

New ways of helping churches, an idea which Sue Fitzgerald nurtured for several years while serving as director of Christian education at the Mars Hill Baptist Church, has become an encouraging reality through the Center for Christian Educational Ministries at Mars Hill College.

A native of Gretna, Va., Miss Fitzgerald conceived her plan not long after she came to Mars Hill in 1963. She began edging it toward reality by compiling a small resource facility for local ministers while she served the Mars Hill church.

Then, in 1975, officials at the Baptist-related college were searching for new and ef-

fective ways in which the college could be of assistance to area churches. The college's president, Dr. Fred B. Bentley, convinced Miss Fitzgerald that she should join the college staff and expand the modest program she had begun into a Center for Christian Educational Ministries.

That fall she moved her collection of books, pamphlets, slides, recordings and similar materials into space formerly occupied by the college bookstore and officially began operating the center. It was unique; no other college was doing anything similar, and there were few helpful guides on how to proceed. The Meredith College educated, Andover-

Newton Seminary trained woman, herself an ordained Baptist minister, had to rely heavily on her own experiences as a director of Christian education and on her instincts as to what would be helpful to pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers and other workers in local churches.

During the first year the center provided direct assistance to over 150 area churches. In the second year that figure doubled. Now in the third year of her "dream operation," Miss Fitzgerald is continuing to push her ministry to still other churches. Eventually she hopes that the center can reach all of

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W. J. PERRIGO, Area "F" Coordinator, Division of Civil Preparedness, is shown (left) presenting a check for \$9,700 to Mayor Lawrence Ponder, center, and Alderman James Penland, right, at City Hall last Thursday

morning. This check is a partial payment from the President's Disaster Relief Fund and is an out-and-out grant for the relief in Utilities, Streets and Public Buildings damaged by the recent flood. (News-Record Photo)

Farmers May Apply For Grower Quota

Farmers are reminded that applications for new grower quotas for burley tobacco must be filed with the ASCS office no later than Feb. 15.

To be eligible for consideration in obtaining a new grower quota for burley tobacco, a farmer must own a farm, derive at least 50 percent of his income from farming and also have proof of experience in raising burley

tobacco for two years of the last five years on a farm having a current tobacco quota.

Any farmer who is interested in applying for a new grower quota for burley tobacco and feels that he may be eligible, should contact the ASCS office in Marshall.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except national holidays.



MR. AND MRS. PRICEY BRIGMAN

The Rock Cafe Changes Hands

By JIM STORY

Page and Pricey Brigman, owners and operators of the Rock Cafe on Main Street here for the past 30 years, recently decided that the time had come for them to retire. Last Saturday marked the end of a successful and long experience in the cafe business located in the rock building next to the courthouse.

The cafe has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Davis of Marshall, who plan to reopen the familiar eating establishment in a few days after doing some remodeling, painting and rearranging the cafe which has been the favorite eating place for thousands of residents and tourists.

The present structure was built in 1947 on the site of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Will Morrow and family. On March 23, 1947, the Brigmans opened

the cafe and have operated the cafe ever since.

Mrs. Brigman, the former Pricey Reed, known affectionately as "Pricey," graduated from Woodfin High School in 1935 and was employed as a waitress at the Pisgah Grill in Marshall. Page, who graduate in 1931 from Marshall High School and who was president of the senior class, worked at Holcombe Grocery Store in Marshall. Page and Pricey were married in 1938 and started in the cafe business in its present location. The cafe was first named Rock Tavern, but Page and Pricey decided that the name should be changed to the Rock Cafe since they were both opposed to the selling of beer, which the word tavern suggests.

Not only did the Brigmans operate the cafe but they were also agents for Greyhound and

Trailways buses and the cafe was also known as the Bus Station.

Page and Pricey have lived in the former Morrow residence adjacent to the cafe since 1947. Although they have retired from the cafe business, they intend to continue to live in the same location.

One of the most unique records during the past 30 years is that for 20 of the 30 years, the cafe was open 365 days a year, including Sundays and holidays.

In recent years, Page and Pricey have been closing on certain holidays and have been the organizers of and participants in various tours by chartered buses which have been enjoyed by hundreds of county citizens.

For the past few years the Brigmans have closed the cafe on Sundays, making it

possible for them to attend the Marshall Baptist Church and also be able to have a "day off" from the cafe.

Page, a charter member of the Marshall Lions Club and for years chairman of the White Cane Drive, has "fed" the members of the Marshall Lions Club for 24 consecutive years, twice a month. Local and District Lions have always enjoyed the delicious meals, which always included hot biscuits and gravy, and often remark that there's no place like the Rock Cafe for Lions to meet and eat.

"We love Marshall and its people and will miss serving them, as well as all others who have eaten with us throughout the years, but after 30 years we have decided to retire and take things a little easier," the devoted couple said last Saturday.