

# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Obray Ramsey Will Record At Mars Hill

Obray Ramsey, Madison County's famed banjo picker, song writer and arranger, has agreed to record and discuss his music on a series of educational tapes for Mars Hill College.

The agreement was worked out between Ramsey and head librarian Lewis Miller, who plans to schedule the tapes for regular library loan. A master tape will be retained as part of the permanent collection of the library's Appalachian Room.

All of Ramsey's original songs and arrangements will be copyrighted by the college, according to Miller, safeguarding the writer against unauthorized use of the songs.

The purpose of the project, which has been discussed informally for several years, is both to preserve traditional mountain music that might otherwise be lost, and to explain and transcribe Obray Ramsey's unique picking style.

"Obray has a lot of music in his head that's never been recorded," said Lewis Miller last week. "I would like to get as much of it on tape as we can, and I think Obray feels it is important to do this, also."

Part of the plan is to produce a notebook containing the musical notations for each song. With this, students of traditional music will be able to listen to the tape and read the sheet music at the same time. The transcribing will be

done by Anita Keller, a student at the college who has been studying Obray Ramsey's music. A music major and native of Marshall, she has already produced one paper on Ramsey for course credit.

Eventually, Miller and Wayne Pressley of the college music department would like to record similar bodies of work by other local musicians, such as Tommy Hunter, Byard Ray, and Betty Smith. Hunter, in fact, has already recorded some of his music here and Miller and Pressley would like to work out similar arrangements with him and others to the one made with Obray Ramsey.

The Ramsey project has evolved through conversations that began about five years ago among Ramsey, Miller, Pressley and Gary Spence, a former Mars Hill student who has studied banjo with Ramsey for nearly 10 years and now teaches banjo playing in Asheville.

"Obray is one of the masters of the banjo," said Miller, "and I feel it's important that we have a good record of his work. Mars Hill College has a commitment to the Appalachian area, and we feel it's important to promote the culture here and to be a part of it."

"We have a number of ongoing projects focused on the area, including the Ap-

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OBRAY RAMSEY

## 4 Workers Join County Health Department

Over the past few months, the Madison County Health Department has moved to fill four out of five vacant positions on its staff.

The fifth position, that of county nutritionist, remains open for lack of a qualified candidate.

These new workers have now been on the job for

several months — some arriving here from other states, some happy to remain in their native county.

Mary Sanchagrin, R.N., has joined the six other registered nurses on the health department staff. She was raised in Sacramento, Calif. and moved with her husband to Mars Hill eight years ago. She studied

nursing at Asheville-Buncombe Tech, where she earned her nursing degree four years ago. Before coming to the health department she worked at Mission Hospital.

Belva Crowe has joined the department as an interviewer for the WIC Program — Women, Infants, and Children. She is a native of Madison County, born on Ivy Creek. She has lived on Walnut Creek for the past 17 years. She worked for the First Union Bank in Marshall for 17 years until she was transferred to Asheville two years ago. She resigned to be closer to home, and first came to the health department as an immunization aide with the CETA program.

Judy Major is a native of Illinois, born on the prairie in a small town near Peoria. She earned her bachelor's degree at Knox College in nearby Galesburg, then went to Tulane in New Orleans for a master's degree in public health. She came to North Carolina a year ago, teaching at first and then joining the Hot Springs Program as a health educator. She spoke to

groups of county residents at schools, churches, community clubs, and first aid classes. At the health department she continues her job as health educator, working both in the schools and in the clinic, where she helps expectant mothers with prenatal and family planning.

Ginny Koranek (pronounced kor-JHA-nek), a nurse practitioner, (Continued on Page 3)

## Gudger Asks For Help In Returning Forms

Congressman Lamar Gudger announced today that U.S. Postal Service authorities in his 11th Congressional District have asked him for assistance.

The questionnaires mailed in December to Gudger's constituents are posing problems on return. "As they explain it to me, unless the questionnaires are folded or stapled when they are mailed back to me, they tend to jam the automatic mail processing machinery. This delays not only the questionnaires, but other mail as well."

The congressman called upon his constituents to

cooperate with the Postal Service by sealing the questionnaires with either tape or a staple. "This will ease the burden on postal authorities, and expedite return of the questionnaires, which are an important means of finding out how WNC residents feel about issues facing the Congress," Gudger said.

The same instructions apply to new questionnaires being mailed in January, which were already printed and in the process of distribution when the problem was called to the Congressman's attention by postal officials.

## Candidates May File For General Election

Candidates for local and state offices can now file their official notices with the Madison County Board of Elections at the Ramsey Office Building, Main Street, Marshall, N.C.

Officials to be elected in the November general election include: two N.C. House of Representatives, two State Senators, the County Register of Deeds, and the Tax Collector.

The filing deadline will be at 12 noon on February 4, 1980. The office of the Board of Elections is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Auto Accidents Claim The Lives Of 3 Residents

In three separate accidents, three residents of Madison County were killed during the past week in automobile accidents.

Two of the victims, Michael Ammons and McKinley Riddle, died on county roads, while the third, Mrs. Betty Wood, died in Tennessee.

The unusual number of deaths could not be attributed to any single factor, although roads throughout the area have been wet and at times icy during the week. Several of the accidents occurred under conditions of poor visibility.

Riddle was killed while walking

along the river highway between Hayes Run and Marshall in almost exactly the same spot another pedestrian was run down two years ago, in another January accident. This is a particularly dangerous stretch of road with narrow shoulders and nowhere for pedestrians to retreat if a car should approach.

According to a state highway patrolman, the total number of highway deaths in the state for the first week of the year was three, two of which occurred in Madison County. The third took place in Buncombe County.

### McKINLEY RIDDLE

McKinley Riddle, 66, of the Hayes Run community of Marshall, was instantly killed Monday morning about 7:45 when he apparently walked into the path of a 1/2-ton pickup truck driven by Leslie Tweed, 66, of the Rollins section of Marshall.

Warren Edwards, Marshall policeman who investigated the accident with Sheriff Ponder, stated that from evidence, Riddle was walking toward Marshall on the left side of U.S. 25-70. As Tweed's truck approached Riddle, Tweed told officers, Riddle suddenly started across the highway and was struck by the truck.

Edwards said the fatal accident was ruled unavoidable, although investigation is continuing.

According to Tweed's statement, he was headed toward his home from Marshall, driving at about 20-25 miles per

## French Broad Electric Gets CP&L Refund

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation has received \$625,444.45 from Carolina Power & Light Co. representing a refund in settlement of wholesale power overcharges during the period of May 1, 1976 through December 1977. Since this case is no longer under appeal these monies can be refunded to members as soon as they can be processed.

There will be some administrative costs involved in processing these refunds to members, which will be taken from the total amount of the refund. At the January meeting of the Cooperative's Board of Directors a final decision will be made as to the total amount that will be refunded and the manner in

which these refunds will be made. It is anticipated that checks will be issued for these refunds rather than showing as credits on power bills as was done in the past.

Only members who received electric service from French Broad EMC between May 1, 1976 and Dec. 31, 1977 will receive a refund. The refund will be based on each member's usage during that time.

"We are working rapidly to develop a computer program to proportion the refund fairly to every member receiving service between May 1976 and December 1977," stated Charles Tolley, Coop General Manager. "We hope the refunds can be made during the month of March."

## Mike Allen Is New Owner Of Teague Milling Co.

After 42 years as the owner of Teague Milling Co. in Marshall, Ernest Teague is calling it a career and selling his business to a younger man.

Last week the old milling company and feed store became Allen Farm Supply Co., the property of Mike Allen of Redmon Road, Marshall.

The milling part of the business was shut down in the early 1960s, but the sale of feed for farm animals has continued to flourish. It has been augmented by a line of veterinary supplies, from hog vitamins to horse pills.

Ernest Teague was born and raised in Marshall, moving to Mars Hill in 1974. He says that his plans now are to take a well-earned rest.

"The business paid off pretty well for me," he said. "Now I'm going to enjoy myself for a while. After you work for 32 years you ought to do something else. We'll be going down to Florida pretty soon for a vacation."

Teague began his career with the A&P Tea Co., managing A&P stores in Asheville, Black Mountain, and Marshall. He bought the milling and feed business from a man named Fred Freeman in 1938. Freeman, also a Marshall native, had built the building on Main Street and started the business as City Milling Co. in 1922.

"When I first came here," Teague recalled, there'd be 15 wagons drawn by horses and mules to every automobile here in town. There were no



MIKE ALLEN, left, and Ernest Teague stand before Allan Farm Supply, formerly Teague Milling Co. Allen is now the third owner of the business, which began in 1922 as City Milling Co.

tractors to speak of — not 'til after the war. We used to ship in lots of hay; I've had 10 railroad carloads of hay sitting on the siding here, most of it coming in from Michigan. The milling business disappeared in the early 1960s, about 25 years after I bought the mill. That was when the government began paying people not to farm. Farmers in the county stopped growing wheat and corn — just like that. Now they have to buy their animal feed and their flour from outsiders. They use

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FOUR NEW FACES appeared at Richard Kingston Harpsichords in Marshall last week, thanks to a six-month pre-apprentice training program sponsored by the N.C. Department of Labor. This brings the work force at the new shop to seven, including Kingston, his wife Dana, and one full apprentice, Louis Bollo. Pic-

tured above, from left to right, are: Sandy Thomas, Dan Howe, Richard Kingston, Joe Griffey, Mary Eagle and Louis Bollo. They are gathered around the frame of a Flemish-style harpsichord being built for a student at Beloit College in Madison, Wis. Most of the frame, or case, is built of linden and pine wood.