

Primary Election Voters' Guide

— Prepared by the North Carolina League Of Women Voters

THE NEWS RECORD

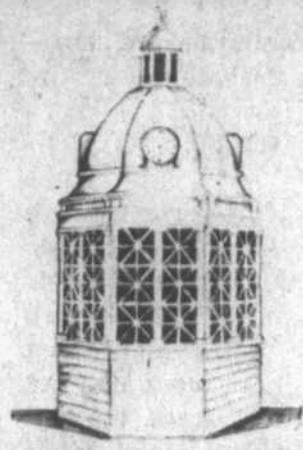
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

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No Decision On Marshall Attorney

Marshall has not yet decided on an attorney to defend the town and town officials in a lawsuit brought by a former Marshall police officer.

Town attorney Charles Mashburn was appointed by the town to select an attorney to represent the town in the suit. Marshall Mayor Betty Wild announced that Mashburn would appoint the attorney after meeting with the board of aldermen in closed session on April 20. Questioned on Monday afternoon, Mashburn said that a final decision on the attorney had not yet been made.

Former Marshall police of-

ficer Carlie Gunter is suing the town, Marshall Mayor Betty Wild and the town's aldermen for \$350,000, charging that he was wrongfully dismissed for his job with the Marshall Police Dept. when the new administration took office in December.

Mayor Betty Wild announced that Gunter and the other members of the police force were terminated when they took office on Dec. 5. The following day, the other two officers on the force, Jasper Treadway and Edward McLean announced that they would resign from the town force.

Vandals Strike In Marshall



VANDALS DAMAGED MARSHALL POLICE CARS over the weekend. The vandals slashed a tire on one vehicle and removed oil from a se-

cond police car sometime Saturday night while the cars were parked in the police lot on Main Street.

Unemployment Shows Decline

North Carolina unemployment declined in March according to figures released this week by the Employment Security Commission (ESC). The latest figures on joblessness indicate that statewide unemployment declined during the month to 7.3 percent of the work force.

The March figures represent a slight improvement from Feb., when the ESC reported 7.6 percent of the work force was unemployed. The March figures represent 214,700 unemployed North Carolina workers.

The state figures are better

than national statistics which reported an unadjusted rate of 8.1 percent during the month. ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan said the decline shows that the decrease reflects the state's healthy economy. Jernigan pointed out that unemployment in March, 1983 stood at 10.9 percent.

Nonmanufacturing jobs led the improvement with the addition of 12,800 jobs during the month.

The average hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers improved during the month to \$6.93, up one cent from February.

Mars Hill College Holds Honors Day

C. Robert Jones, Mars Hill College's playwright in the residence, was named the R. S. Gibbs Outstanding Teacher for 1984 Tuesday as the college honored its own during the school's annual Honors Day ceremony.

Scholarships, awards and recognitions were made to students, staff, and faculty during the ceremony. The Gibbs Outstanding Teacher Award, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by R. S. Gibbs, Jr., of North Wilkesboro, and his family in memory of his father, R. S. Gibbs, Sr., who was a prominent member of the Mars Hill community.

Jones joined the Mars Hill faculty in 1971. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in 1954 and received a Fulbright Scholarship the same year, which he used to study at The Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Dijon. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Catholic University of America, and has a Master's Degree in Literature from the University of Georgia.

In presenting the award, Dr. Richard Hoffman, academic vice-president of Mars Hill stated that "C. Robert Jones stands out, both as a teacher and a playwright, as one of the most creative members who have served on our faculty. He has a unique ability to identify talent and positive qualities in people and is able to bring those qualities out in people he works with."

Jones will take a year's sabbatical during the 1984-85 school year to travel to European theatres, write a text book, and continue developing several new scripts he has already begun.

Several other faculty and staff members received recognition during the ceremonies. Harrell Wood, assistant professor of physical education, was recognized for 25 years of service. Frances Snelson, assistant to the president, member of the staff for over 40 years, who is retiring this year, was honored as was Roy Wood, Professor of Economics, and a faculty member for 20 years who is also retiring this year. Dr.

John M. Hough, Dean for Continuing Education, and a faculty and staff member for 22 years who is leaving at the end of the summer was also recognized for his contributions to the college.

Students, both incoming freshmen for the 1984-85 academic year and current students, were also singled out for scholarship and other academic awards.

Brenda Gail Keller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keller of Ammons Branch Rd. in Marshall, is a senior psychology major. She has been selected as class marshal and is the recipient of the Whitehurst Scholarship valued at \$500.

Sandra Keller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Keller of Ammons Branch Rd. in Marshall, is the recipient of a \$500 E. A. Robinson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and a \$500 Whitehurst Scholarship. She is a freshman religion major. Lisa Ann Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Fisher of Route 7, Marshall, is a sophomore math major. Lisa was awarded the \$500

Whitehurst Scholarship and the \$500 E. A. Robinson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

Roxana Whitt Capps of Route 2, Marshall, is the recipient of the Leiby Biology Scholarship and was selected a class marshal. She is a senior biology major.

Delores Wyatt of Route 6, Marshall is a freshman elementary education major. She is a recipient of the Tomberlin and Hensley Scholarship.

Kenneth Lee Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Edwards of Mars Hill, is a senior mathematics major. Edwards has been selected a class marshal and a recipient of a \$1,000 Frances and Talmadge Bailey Scholarship and the Jones V. Howell Math Scholarship.

Robert Carlton Ballance, Jr., of Mars Hill is a junior English major. He is the recipient of a \$500 Ella Janet Pierce English Scholarship and a \$500 Link-Lamm Scholarship.

Lisa Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Anderson, Jr., of Route 2, Mars Hill, is a

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WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETED on new 40-unit housing being constructed in Mars Hill by the Madison County Housing Authority. The two

and three-bedroom homes will be open to low and moderate-income residents. Contact the Housing Authority for more details.

Hunt Endorses Farm Amendment

Support for a proposed farm finance amendment was voiced here Friday by state officials and agricultural leaders during a news conference in the Capitol.

Passage of the constitutional amendment, to be voted on in the May 8 primary, would permit the state to establish an agency to issue agricultural revenue bonds. Funds from the sale of the bonds would be used for loans to farmers and farmer-owned cooperatives.

Prime participants in the conference were Gov. Jim Hunt; Rep. Bobby R. Etheridge (D-Harnett); Edmund Aycock, executive vice president, N. C. Agribusiness Council; and state Agriculture Commissioner James A. Graham.

Speaking for the amendment Hunt said: "We know huge federal deficits have a stranglehold on America's future. Those sky-high deficits are swallowing up more and more of our available credit —

credit our farmers need if they are to maintain, improve and modernize their operations.

"This amendment, which will finance good farmers and well-managed farm operations, will offer the funds our farmers need to make North Carolina agriculture more productive and efficient. That is good news for all North Carolina families."

Etheridge, who authored the legislation, said: "Passage to the amendment is essential to the scheme of agricultural

growth in North Carolina. Revenue bonds have been a successful tool for industry and we simply want to provide the same tools for our farmers. Neighboring states have done it and we want to be competitive with them."

Graham said that credit-worthy farmers have had trouble securing loans for capital improvements as funds earmarked for agriculture had been diverted to other industries.

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Runoff Primary Becomes Campaign Issue

By A.L. MAY
The News and Observer

The Democratic presidential campaign in North Carolina has raised an issue that has long been a concern of blacks and a troublesome thorn for white Democrats.

Elimination of primary runoffs in nine Southern states is a chief campaign theme of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who contends the practice bars blacks from winning party primaries.

His opponents, Vice President Walter F. Mondale and Sen. Gary W. Hart, have had to handle the issue with care.

In North Carolina, the Mondale campaign is accusing Hart of softening his previous support for Jackson's call for elimination of the election device.

At a news conference in Chapel Hill this month, Hart said: "A sweeping elimination, without examination of the voting patterns and the political traditions in the state, would be wrong. But I also believe it would be wrong to continue to run primaries that have the very explicit impact of discriminating against racial

minorities."

But Gary Hart seemed to take a stronger position in a March 18 presidential debate in Chicago:

"I would very strongly support Rev. Jackson's efforts to open up the primary system in the south and prevent a situation in which black candidates have to jump two hurdles, one of which is almost impossible in many states."

In an interview last week, James D. Margolis, state director for the Mondale campaign, said Hart's statement in North Carolina represented a "new position, because that's not what he said in Chicago. He said he agreed with Jesse, and he's being inconsistent here."

John R. McArthur, state director for the Hart campaign, said Hart's comments were "totally consistent." In both statements, McArthur said, Hart's point was that where runoffs are found to be discriminating, they should not be allowed.

That position is similar to that of Mondale, who has called only for the elimination of runoffs "proven to be discriminatory." The

former vice president has been careful not to offend the Southern political establishment by siding with Jackson's call for outlawing all dual primaries.

Many Southern Democratic leaders fear that without the runoff requirement, candidates could win nominations who would not represent a broad enough base to win against a Republican in the fall.

"I would not favor the blanket elimination," Mondale said last week in a visit to the state. But he called for compromise, suggesting that a lowering of the threshold to less than a majority. South Carolina Democrats have suggested a 40 percent threshold.

In picking up on the runoff issue, Jackson is tapping a complaint that blacks in North Carolina have voiced for more than a decade. As early as 1973, a bill was introduced in the North Carolina legislature to eliminate the runoff. But such legislation, including a measure considered in the 1983 session, never has gotten out of committee.

Historians say the runoff requirement emerged in the early 19th Century out of the one-party

politics of the South, in which victory in a primary is tantamount to election in the fall. It was a way that a candidate could be chosen from contending factions of the same party.

At the time, blacks generally were disenfranchised — an indignation, runoff advocates say, that the election device was not invented to discriminate against blacks.

However, North Carolina blacks complain that in recent years, serious black candidates have gotten large pluralities in the first primary but fallen short of the necessary majority to avoid a runoff. Frequently, they say, runoff campaigns focus on the race question — spoken or unspoken — and the black candidate is defeated by virtue of being black.

The example frequently mentioned by Jackson was the experience of H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, Jr., a Durham black leader who in 1962 led the first primary with 44 percent of the vote in a three-way race for the 2nd Congressional District. Michaux lost the runoff to the eventual winner, Rep. I.T. "Tim" Valentine, a white lawyer from Nashville.