

john rountree

Unless history is to be considered the slaughter bench of mankind there are certain lessons that must be learned and remembered. If those lessons are ignored, if the events of the past are shoved into a corner and forgotten then the chance is good that our history will repeat itself — sometime.

Stories are written and monuments are erected to those people and moments of our past that we must remember if we are to make ourselves any better with each passing generation. Mars Hill College has such a monument, dedicated to a man who gave more of himself for this school than probably any other person.

His name is Joe and his monument is a tombstone. Joe was a slave, owned by Reverend J.W. Anderson, a founder of Mars Hill College. After the first building was built on the campus there wasn't enough money to pay the contractor, so Joe was sent to jail as collateral for the unpaid debt of his master. After about six months of imprisonment, members of the Mars Hill/Madison County raised the money to pay the debt, and Joe was freed.

To make a long story short, Joe's grave was finally placed on the campus with a headstone that reads simply JOE. The stone makes no mention of the years his life spanned, there is nothing to indicate his contribution to the establishment of Mars Hill College. In fact Joe isn't even given the simple dignity of a last name. The monument was erected to Joe. It is located in the small wooded lot next to the house of President Fred Bentley.

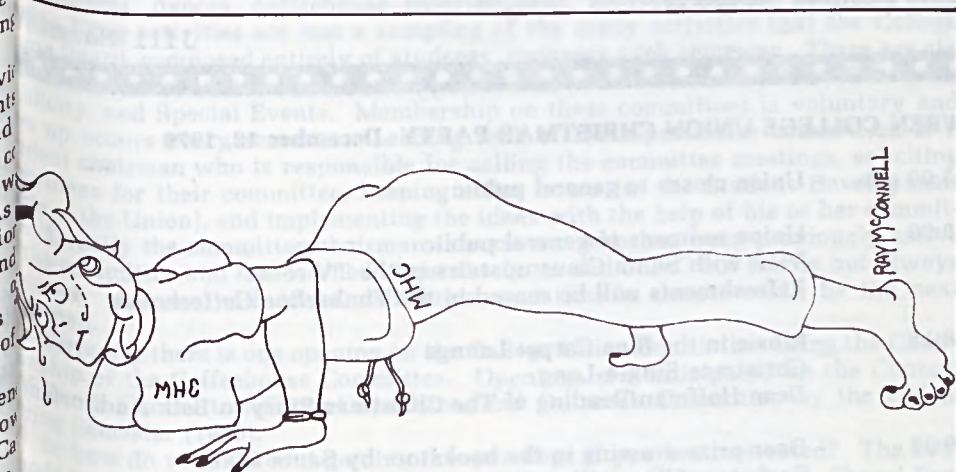
And now, in truly ironic fashion this bit of our heritage is being threatened with complete obscurity. On the eve of Minority Awareness Week a split rail fence is built, sealing off any access to Joe's gravesite. The fence goes behind the bushes and rocks at either corner of the property. There is no gate or any way around the fence unless you trespass on private property.

With no easy access to the grave, students will probably stop noticing the grave-site in the woods. And, since there is no gate, there will probably not be too much maintenance or groundskeeping around the gravesite, either. It won't take much more than two or three years for the briars and climbing plants to cover the grave completely. Pretty soon the contribution of Joe will not be remembered, and the monument placed in his name will crumble and be obliterated.

Joe spent his life as a slave, and there is no reason to fence him in even after death. The fence is an affront to Joe and the sacrifices he made in the name of this institution, just as slavery was an affront to all of mankind.

John Rountree

John Rountree, a 1977 Graduate of MHC, has been a part-time instructor here for three years (Teaching Photography and Winter Backpacking) and is a Media Center Technician. He is currently working on a Masters Degree in Photography.



"NOW, WHAT'S KEEPING US FROM GETTING OUR CHINS ON THE FLOOR MISS SHAPELY?"

Nine former trustees appointed to new terms at MARS HILL COLLEGE

MARS HILL - Nine former trustees of Mars Hill College have been appointed to new terms during the semi-annual business meeting held at the college Friday, December 7. During the meeting the trustees considered a report from college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley on the recent State Baptist Convention meeting, reviewed the college's current budget and plans for the 1980-1981 budget, and heard a report on the student recruitment program.

The nine trustees appointed to new terms, which begin January 1, 1980, have all served previously as trustees of the Baptist related college. They are: E. D. Beach of Lenoir, Vice-President for Finance of Broyhill Industries; George T. Cornwell, Chairman-Treasurer of Cornwell Drug Stores, Inc., of Morganton; C. O. Ellis, owner and operator of Burnsville Hosiery; Rev. Allen Laymon, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wilmington; Mrs. Burgess P. Marshbanks, Jr., of Lillington; Mrs. Leo Pendergrass of Mars Hill; Jimmy M. Piercy, President of Hardwood Sales, Inc., of Hickory; J. Euel Taylor, President of Taylor Motor Company of Waynesville; and Ernest C. Teague of Mars Hill, owner of Teague Milling Company.

Completing their terms this year are Dr. W. O. Brazil of Asheville, Roy Brock of Clyde, Harold Causby of Shelby, Clyde Dickson of Charlotte, Dr. Robert Owen of Canton, George Pickering of Black Mountain, C. C. Wall of Lexington, and W. Glen Watts of Statesville.

COMMUNICATIONS TEST DATES

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6-8 pm	English 115 (Posttest)
Thursday, Dec. 6, 6-8 pm	English 111 & 113 (Pretest)
Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6-8 pm	English 211 (Posttest)
Monday, Jan. 28, 2-4pm	English 111, 113 & 115 (Pretest)
Monday, Jan. 28, 6-8 pm	English 211 (Pretest)
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2-4 pm	English 111, 113 & 115 (Pretest)
Tuesday, April 29, 6-8 pm	English 113, 115 (Posttests)
Tuesday, May 6, 6-8 pm	English 111, 113 & 115 (Pretest)
Thursday, May 8, 6-8 pm	English 211 (Pretest)

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