Do You Want 40,000 Records?

One of the largest private collections of recordings in the U.S. has been given to Ars Hill College by a retired Lincolnton couple. Compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bridges, the collection contains over 40,000 items ranging from wax cylinders to ellac 78's, to stereo LP albums. It is one of only two collections known to be of Ich size in the nation.

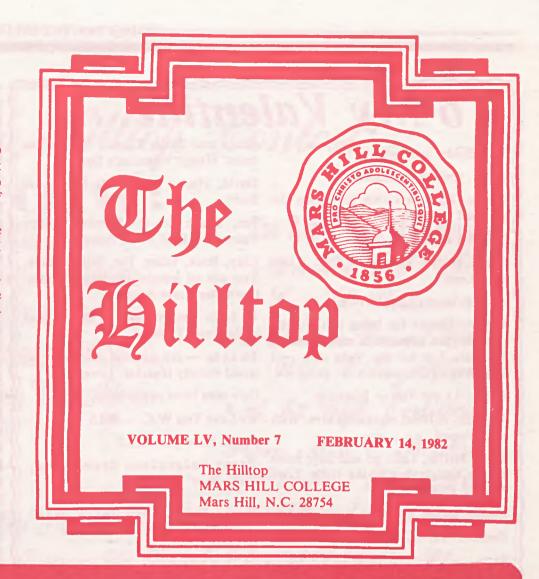
Now retired from the Seaboard Railroad, Bridges began collecting in 1946. The diest recordings in the collection date from around the turn of the century; and all eas of music, including jazz, the blues, country, folk, popular, classical, and rock, represented in the assemblage. According to Bridges, his offer to donate the collon to several other colleges and universities met with some resistance as the 000 ls only wanted portions of the collection while he preferred to keep the collec-

The Bridgeses made contact with Mars Hill through Dr. Harley Jolley, professor istory at the school and well-known regional author. Dr. Jolley is in the process esearching a new book about the mountain region during the 1930's. It was at a er reunion of Civilian Conservation Corps workers that Dr. Jolley and Bridges discovered they had friends in common, and Bridges mentioned his collection. Jolley then went to Lewis Miller, the college's librarian, who quickly recognized value of such a collection.

The value of this collection is its diversity," noted Miller, "and its sheer size." estimates that two tractor trailer loads will be required to move the collection the Bridges' home to the college.

their retirement the Bridgeses had moved to a farm; but even with the aid proed by a barn on the property, their living space was becoming crowded. "The tail begun to wag the dog," Bridges commented.

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Special Valentine's Day Issue



Take Time To Be With The One You Love!

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