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Laurel Leaves Awarded To Dr. Jolley

by Judy Smith
Editor Emeritus

Since the late 1970's the Appalachian Consortium has presented its most distinguished award, the Laurel Leaves. Leaves crafted out of pewter are inscribed with the names of the recipients. The Laurel Leaves have been awarded to many men from various fields. Their selection was based on their contribution to the "preservation and perpetuation of Appalachian Heritage," "through writing, publication, workshops, and leadership ability." Last year's recipient of the award was the Lt. Governor of Georgia.

On Friday, September 19, 1986 Dr. E. Jolley was honored with this award at the annual meeting of the Consortium. When asked about his personal feelings toward being honored, he responded, "most humble and delighted." Individuals considered for the award are first brought to the attention of the award committee through public nomination. Someone is then chosen to evaluate the contributions that the individual has made in his or her work. This is an overwhelming recognition of capabilities.

The award follows Dr. Jolley's nomination by the Christopher Crittendon

Memorial Award last fall for his contribution to the preservation of North Carolina History. He has also presently been nominated for "The Mayflower Cup" in recognition of his book, *The Blue Ridge Parkway The First Fifty Years*.

This past summer he was named to the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Council for Social Studies. Of this he says he is most proud. For Dr. Jolley, however, the summer was not all awards and nominations, it was a great deal of work. He was commissioned by the American Society of Landscape Architects to write a book, *Painting With A Comet's Tail--The Touch of a Landscape Architect on the Blue Ridge Parkway*.

He is presently reading a manuscript for the University of Tennessee Press, who published his first book on the Parkway. His next project he says will involve the CCC story in North Carolina.

He stated, "There is no end of things that need to be done. There are enough stories in Western North Carolina to keep twenty graduate students busy constantly." Dr. Jolley wished that the Universities would begin to make use of



Photo by Pam Megathlin

this resource, meaning the students.

The classroom has always been his challenge. He has turned down job offers from the forestry service and many others to remain there. When asked if he

had plans for retirement soon, he chose his answer very carefully, "retirement is very much in the offering." We must realize, however, that as a writer and a historian one can never truly retire.

Life Tour

MARS HILL - Mars Hill College's Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) is sponsoring a historical tour of the Deep South October 27 - November 2. Guide of the week-long tour will be Dr. Evelyn Underwood, former chairman of Mars Hill history department.

The tour will depart Mars Hill Monday, October 27, via deluxe motor coach and will head for Montgomery, Alabama. Sites visited the first day will include the White House of the Confederacy, the residence of Jefferson Davis, and a visit to the state capitol. Mobile, Alabama is the next stop and a visit to the Bellingrath Gardens. On Wednesday, the group will tour the city of New Orleans, which includes a river tour on the Creole Queen. Baton Rouge is the next stop on the tour, and the group will spend Thursday evening at Natchez, Mississippi. In Natchez, the tour will visit several of the homes and gardens of the area. In the afternoon, the tour will move on to Vicksburg and the famous Civil War Battlefield there.

On Saturday, the group will complete the tour of Vicksburg and move on to Birmingham. The group is scheduled for a late return to Mars Hill on Sunday, October 2.

Costs for the tour range from a low of \$359 for "quad" occupancy of motel rooms to \$379 for triple occupancy, \$419 for double occupancy and a high of \$459 for single occupancy. The fee includes transportation, six nights lodging, baggage handling, five lunches, one superb dinner, and all tour fees, guide costs, and admission charges. The trip is conducted by Young Tours of Asheville.

Lunsford Festival

MARS HILL - The Nineteenth Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford Mountain Music and Dance Festival began Friday evening, October 3, with a special concert of bluegrass music in Mars Hill College's Owen Theatre.

The festival has undergone changes since Lunsford and Ed Howard, a Mars Hill pharmacist, began the first festival in the autumn of 1965. It has been stretched from a one-day into three days of activities. The festival will retain the spirit of Lunsford's intention: passing on the traditions of mountain life from one generation to another.

Several years ago, a special concert held on Friday evenings was added in order to spotlight one aspect of mountain music. Over the past few years, a solid historical perspective has been given to the instruments and music of the mountains. This year, the 7 p.m. concert took a special look at bluegrass music with two well known local bands. The Whitewater Bluegrass and the Gary Burnette Band provided the necessary musical expertise.

Bluegrass music began, not in Kentucky, as many assume, but in the hills of North Carolina. When Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys began playing and singing their own brand of country music, they didn't realize that their names would become the generic name for a particular type of music. As one of the new genres of music played in the mountains, bluegrass developed in the middle 1940s and became popular during the 1950s urban folk revival.

Last Saturday, the first annual Mountain Ballad & Story Swap was held at 10 o'clock a.m. Directed by balladeer Shiela Barnhill and friends, the activities includ-

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