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Mars Hill College Graduates Largest Class In 118 Years

The largest graduating class in Mars Hill College's 118th year history received their diplomas Sunday. The 296 seniors were awarded their diplomas by college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley. Folding chairs had been placed in the aisles of Moore Auditorium for the 3 p.m. commencement, but many still observed the ceremonies from the lobby of the 1,800 seat facility.

Bentley told the senior that "today you enter society at a significantly different level of responsibility." Noting that education is a function of society and is accountable to society, he told the new graduates that he has many hopes for them; that their faith in Christ had been strengthened; that their desire to learn and grow has been set ablaze; that they have learned the true meaning of brotherly love; and that

they have gained a purpose, with integrity, to be responsible citizens.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Perry Crouch, general secretary-treasurer of the N. C. State Baptist Convention, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. He told the seniors, parents, alumni, and the congregation of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, which traditionally joins the college for the service, that "If our world is to be saved, man must be reconciled to his God." Using the Apostle Paul's transformation as an example he told the assembly that "we may have to leave the comfortable world, the acceptance of our friends and family to seek the answers to our world's needs in the light of Christian truth."

Telling the seniors, "You are a child of change," he urged them to evaluate the knowledge they had ac-

cumulated in college in order to lead an abundant life as a spiritual reality, rather than for the multiplication of things in a secular society.

During the ceremony, Livola Sue Freeman Stroud, a Spartanburg, S. C. native, was awarded the Scholarship - Character Medal. This award goes to the student who ranks highest in scholarship, manners, and general character. Mrs. Stroud, who completed her studies in December, is a religion major and is currently enrolled in Southeastern seminary with her husband Paul Stroud, a Fuquay - Varina native and a magna cum laude graduate of the college. A transfer student from Wingate Junior College, Mrs. Stroud maintained a 3.97 grade level out of a possible 4.0.

In action taken by the college's Board of Trustees

Saturday, the first day of the two-day Alumni Commencement weekend, the 36-member policy-making group adopted a \$4.3 million operating budget for the coming academic year, approved plans for a new \$75,000 physical plant building, approved faculty tenure and promotions, approved a \$210 increase in student tuition and fees, and nominated new trustees and officers.

The trustees elected to retain the current officers of the board with the exception of Charles Trammell, former Hendersonville banker who recently moved to Virginia. Under the bylaws of the college, the trustees must be residents of North Carolina. Trammell was named to the Board of Advisors, and was replaced as treasurer of the Board of Trustees by Alvin Philpott, executive vice-president of Burlington House Furniture Company in Lexington. Other officers re-elected are Chairman Webb Ellis, president of Ellis-Tomberlin Insurance Company of Asheville; Dr. W. Otis Duck, Mars Hill physician, vice-chairman; and Keith Synder, U. S. District Attorney for Western North Carolina, secretary.

Over 700 alumni enjoyed the day Saturday, with 14 classes holding reunions. The Alumni Association elected new officers for the coming year during their business meeting Saturday afternoon, naming television star Archie Campbell, Class of 1935, as president. Other officers include vice-president and

president-elect Bernard Schumate, president of the First National Bank of Miami, Fla., Class of 1948, and secretary Mrs. Louise Webster Teague, Class of 1928 and wife of Trustee Ernest Teague of Marshall.

During the Alumni Banquet Saturday evening, Dr. Duck and Mrs. Paul Price Davis, Winston-Salem business woman, were named alumnus and alumna of 1974.

Other Madison County graduates are:

HOT SPRINGS
Mattie Ray Ramsey, DeLane Sumner

MARS HILL
James B. Acker III; Patricia Lawrence Anderson; Marie O. Brown; Elizabeth Ann Clayton; Jeff Delond Conner; Robin Thompson Erickson; Billy Wayne Hodge; Wanda Rogers Hollifield; Mary Ellen Metcalf; Dennis Myers; Dearl Dean Norton; Paul Pegg; Larry D. Shook; Ronald Tedder; David Michael Thomas; Beverly Dianne Vines; Mary Wood Waddell; Stephen F. Waddell.

MARSHALL
Betty Ward Bradley; Barbara Thomas Ray; Marie Gardner Cody; Shirley Slagle Cody; Clifford Wilson.

Then ...
1924



THE 1924 GRADUATING CLASS of Marshall High School is pictured above as they appear then. Left to right, front row: Madge Lucille Tweed, Selma Rector, Zora Sue Roberts, Sallie Juanita Fisher, Edna Elizabeth Rice, Julia Mae Worley. Back row, Albert C. Bryan, Fowler Wallin, Wendell Wayne Smiley, William Wayne Fisher, Cleo Don Eller, Wm. T. McKinney.

And Now ...
1974



SIX MEMBERS of the 1924 graduating class attended the Marshall Alumni meeting here last Saturday night, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Front row, left to right, Mrs. Odell Matthews (Madge Tweed), Mrs. J. J. Ramsey (Selma Rector), Mrs. Clarence Huffman (Zora Sue Roberts). Back row, left to right, Fowler Wallin, Wendell Wayne Smiley, William Wayne Fisher. Two members, Cleo Don Eller and Wm. T. McKinney, are deceased. Sitting in chair is Mrs. Hettie R. Blankenship, one of the teachers of the 1924 class, who was present.

Mars Hill Student Charged In Coeds Death

A seven-month investigation into the death of Mars Hill coed Sally Bell Moffitt resulted Wednesday of last week in the arrest of another student on a charge of murder.

Sheriff E. Y. Ponder of Madison County identified the suspect as Wayne Schilling,

21, of Mt. Holly, N. J., being held in the Madison County jail without bond pending a bond hearing.

Ponder described Schilling as a former boyfriend of the dead girl, adding that extensive interviews with fellow students at the school indicated the couple was "very close."

Miss Moffitt's body was found at a highway construction site on the morning of Oct. 13 by workman. The location is at the intersection of U. S. 213 and U. S. 19-23 north.

Miss Moffitt was last seen alive about 10 p. m. Oct. 11 when she left her dormitory walking toward the main campus.

Ponder said the girl died when one of three broken ribs severed the pulmonary artery, but said he "couldn't say" at this point how the injury occurred.

An autopsy by Dr. Otis Duck, Madison County medical examiner said the girl was dragged across the road and down an embankment after "either falling from a great height or being thrown from a moving vehicle."

Other injuries included a fractured skull and bruises, according to Duck, who discounted chances that the girl may have been hit by an automobile.

Miss Moffitt was fully clothed and had not been sexually assaulted, according to Duck.

Schilling had completed his work for the spring semester, according to the spokesman for the college.

Other agencies working in addition to the Madison County Sheriff's Office include the Mars Hill Police Department, State Bureau of Investigation and Harold Bailey, an agent with the district solicitor's office.

The girl was believed to have been carrying a red canvas shoulder bag when she was last seen on campus.

A \$1,500 reward was posted for the bag, which has been

found, according to a spokesman for the SBI.



Wayne Schilling

Hot Springs ABC Ouster Hearing Next Month

The Madison County Sheriff's Department arrested seven persons Sunday and charged them with growing marijuana, Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said. The seven were identified as

Rick Dover, 18; Charles Edward Davis, 21; Patsy Sprinkle, 20; Calvin Robert Sprinkle, 19; Walter Fountain Goodman Jr., 18; Jean E. Licenzza, 18; and David Cross, 17.

According to the sheriff, six of the suspects were arrested about 11 a.m. on Redmond Road. The seventh suspect fled the scene and was arrested Sunday night.

They were charged with manufacturing and growing marijuana for sale and with the possession with intent to distribute about 2 1/2 pounds of marijuana.

Ponder said about an acre of marijuana, with an estimated 2,000 plants, was found growing in the Pine Creek section which is believed to have been cultivated by the seven.

Out on \$2,500 cash bond are Calvin Sprinkle, Patsy Sprinkle and Rick Dover, all of Asheville. The other four inmates remain in jail here in lieu of bond.



Sally Moffitt

Ebbs Chapel Organizes Committee

The Ebbs Chapel Community held a meeting, Friday night, May 17th and organized a committee to work with the American Revolution Bicentennial in Madison County. The following officers were elected: Mrs. John Falk, Chairman; Mrs. Ed English, Jr., Co-Chairman; Mrs. Furman Fox, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Ed Ponder, Secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Mayfield, Publicity.

Committees appointed were: BEAUTIFICATION, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Porter Wallin, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Condra, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Lee English, Mrs. Furman Fox and Freddie Wallin.

CLEAN-UP: Mrs. Patricia Ball, Mrs. Ed Ponder, Mrs. Detric Cody and Mrs. Kenneth Condra.

DUMPSTER: Mr. Ed English, Jr., Mr. Ed Ponder, Mr. Wayne Burnett, Mr. and

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7 Charged With Growing Marijuana In County

The State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has scheduled a public hearing in Asheville the second week in June on plans to oust the Hot Springs ABC Board.

The state board voted Tuesday of last week to hold the hearing at the request of Robert S. Swain of Asheville, attorney for the Hot Springs Board.

Swain said in a letter to the state board that the local board has no intention of resigning.

State ABC Chairman L. C. Holshouser sent a letter May 1 to R. W. Ponder, chairman of the Hot Springs Board, in which he said an investigation had uncovered "many discrepancies" in the operation of the local board.

Holshouser said the discrepancies "have caused us to feel that you and the other members of your board can no longer be considered fit to serve on the local board."

Holshouser went on to say that if the local board refused to resign, the state board

would take its demand to the mayor and commissioners of Hot Springs. The letter stated that if they "then fail to order your board's removal we shall

be forced to order its removal according to our regulations." Ponder told newsmen earlier he had no intention of resigning.

Dry Pond Cemetery Care Fund

The trustees of the Dry Pond Cemetery recognize the need for a trust fund to be

established for the care and maintenance of the Dry Pond Cemetery. Many cemeteries presently are going unkept and uncared for due to lack of funds to provide the care necessary to keep them attractive and neat. Presently, there is no interest and concern in maintaining Dry Pond Cemetery and it was decided that the establishment of such a perpetual care fund at this time would be most appropriate.

The trust fund papers were drawn and are on record. The trust fund at present is being handled by the First Union Bank of Marshall. The trustees have at present a

Election Board Office Closed For Five Days

It was announced this week that the Madison County Election Board office on Main Street will be closed on the following dates: May 28, 29, 31; June 1, 4.

\$120 Million Grants For Rural Water And Sewer

WASHINGTON — Senator Herman E. Talmadge announced that the Department of Agriculture has decided to release \$120 million in water and sewer grant money for rural communities. The money had previously been impounded.

The release of the money came following a March 5 Talmadge complaint that the Department of Agriculture policy on water and sewer grant funds represented "a starvation diet for rural America."

Last year, the Congress appropriated \$150 million for water and sewer grant money. However, the money was impounded. Later, \$30 million of the appropriated sum was released. Today's action was to release the remainder of the appropriated sum.

Senator Talmadge, the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry said he had been informed of the release of the money this morning by telephone, in a conversation with Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz.

Talmadge added: "This is doubly good news. In February the USDA put a new complication into this grant program by reducing from 50

to 25 percent the total amount of a project which could be funded with a grant. I was informed today that this restriction was being changed back to 50 percent so that the communities in the greatest need would get the money."

The Senator said that it was his understanding that the money released today would be allocated during the current fiscal year and will remain available until it was expended.

He concluded: "I have never felt that Secretary Butz

was personally responsible for the sabotaging of the Rural Development Program over the past two years. It has been pretty clear to me that he and others at USDA believe in rural development, but that they were being told what to do by a bunch of people at the Office of Management and Budget who have not cared whether rural communities lived or died. I trust that today's decision marks a turnaround in Administration policy toward rural development."

Rural Fire Trucks Ready For Service

Officers of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department announced this week that there are two fire trucks which can be used for rural fires. A third fire truck remains in the corporate limits at all times for local protection. It was explained.

The rural trucks have been called recently to Erwin several miles from Marshall and the Erwin community answered a call for help. N. C. Trust, State

"If we can assist you don't hesitate to call us." (336-2333) one of the Erwin stations.

Courthouse Closed On

Next Monday

Officers in the courthouse will be closed next Monday in observance of Memorial Day.