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On the Inside . . .
What's happening
at school this year?
...see page 8

Marshall Elementary

Voters May Decide In November On \$2.5 Million To Pay For It



CONTRASTING sharp lines of Blackwell Hall, now under construction, and tall pillars of an existing college building in the background depict the blending of the old and

the new on the campus of Mars Hill College. The new administration building is expected to be ready for occupancy in October.

College Gets New Housing Director

James K. Davidson has been named Mars Hill College's new director of housing, according to Mrs. Jane Holcombe, dean of Student Development at the Baptist-related college.

Davidson, a native of Elmira, N.Y., was awarded a master's degree in counselor education this summer from Alfred University, Alfred, N.Y., where he also earned his undergraduate degree.

The housing director is a member of the Student Development Office at Mars Hill, and is responsible for all operations involving housing including room assignments and changes; selection, training and supervision of resident directors and assistants; and for all residence hall programs and activities including hall government. The housing office also handles guest housing and off-campus housing referrals for students and faculty members as well as maintaining residence records for commuters.

Prior to coming to Mars Hill, Davidson was resident hall director at the State University of New York at Alfred where he supervised a 250-occupant co-educational residence hall.

Blackwell Hall To Be Occupied In October

The new Blackwell Hall administration building at Mars Hill College will become occupied in October, according to college officials.

All major college administrative offices will be moved into the building at that

time. Construction on the new \$1.1 million edifice, named in honor of college President Emeritus Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, was started in July 1977 on the site of the former Treat Residence Hall.

While paving, sidewalks and landscaping are being installed on the outside at present, work continues on the interior of the building. Efforts are being made by the contractors to complete the interior work in time for an October occupancy date.

How Do You Read?

New Mars Hill College Courses Focus On Better Teaching

When Mars Hill College initiated its competence-based curriculum recently, one of the jobs the college undertook was a survey of the job market. As a result of that long range survey, several new programs were incorporated into the curriculum, including one to train teachers of reading.

Teaching children to read has been North Carolina's top priority in its educational budget since 1974. During the 1971-72 school year and again in 1974-75, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction assessed a representative sample of the state's sixth grade population. Although the scores of the average student rose during this interval, the average student scored lower than the national sample.

Most of the furor over reading and other "back to basic" abilities began in 1969 when James E. Allen Jr., then U.S. Commissioner of Education, set a goal for the 1970's which he declared in a

speech before the National Association of State Boards of Education that teaching children to read is the number one responsibility of schools and expressed hope that by the end of the 1970's no child would leave school without adequate reading ability.

One of the things that prompted Allen to initiate his "Right to Read" campaign were estimates that ran as high as 30 percent of schoolchildren nationwide who did not read well enough to meet the requirements of school and society.

North Carolina was one of the first selected as a National Right to Read state. By 1975-76 funds had been directed to local levels where 181 persons were employed specifically to help improve students' reading ability. According to Tom I. Davis, information officer for the Department of Public Instruction, that figure is still below what the state needs. In a recent news story, Davis was quoted as saying that North Carolina has an

overabundance of teachers in some areas, but education officials through the state were having difficulty filling some positions, prominent among them being teachers of reading.

Mars Hill's new program, which offers courses in diagnostic and corrective techniques, methodology, and reading instructional materials, is designed to train in-service teachers as well as the college's students.

Currently only one in every four teachers of reading in the state is certified. Lending impetus to Mars Hill's program is the fact that by the 1982-83 school year, all teachers must be certified in their specialty. In addition, education officials are predicting a need for remedial reading teachers as a result of the competence-based testing program recently instigated in North Carolina.

There are two ways to achieve certification in reading, Mars Hill students simply enroll in the program. The certification program is not a major but what the academicians term a "concentration."

"There are some schools that have a major in reading," commented Mrs. Rebecca Eller, director of the new reading certification program at Mars Hill; "however, we believe that it enhances a graduate's job prospects if he or she has a certificate in an

Continued on Page 2

Madison County residents should be getting an opportunity to vote on a \$2.5 million bond issue at the same time they go to the polls in the regular November elections.

The proposed bond issue would provide money for construction of a new Marshall Elementary School, replacing the one that sits on Marshall Island in the middle of the French Broad River, as well as providing renovation funds for other buildings within the district.

At the present time, Madison County government officials are awaiting word from the Local Government Commission in Raleigh which must decide if the county credit standing is sufficient to allow a bond issue of this size.

Dave Caldwell, county auditor, said word has not been received from Raleigh on the county request for this approval, the last approval needed before the bond issue vote can be taken.

This will be the third and final approval before the matter comes before the voters for general action.

The county Board of Education has placed its

Senior Citizen's Day Slated For September 7

Older Americans Day will be celebrated Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Greater Ivy Community Center (old Beech Glen School) all Madison County Older Americans 60 and over both male and female are urged to attend.

There will be a program of singing, square dancing and playing of various musical instruments beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Door prizes, etc. will be

given after the lunch period. If you have trouble with transportation contact your local church or Mrs. Lucille Burnette 649-3630 Mrs. Dorothy Shube 649-2076 or Mrs. Roy Young 689-4579.

GOP To Open Headquarters

The Republicans will observe the grand opening of their new headquarters located over the Marshall Thrift Store on Main Street in Marshall this Thursday at 7 p.m.

Curtis Ratcliff, candidate for Congress from the 11th district, will be the featured speaker.

All candidates for county offices will be present. Refreshments will be served.

Wagon Train

The Marshall Wagon Train participated in the Sourwood Parade held in Black Mountain Wednesday of last week.

The Marshall train had six wagons, with J.R. "Dube" Deaver as Wagon Master.

'Inmates' Look Forward To Move

The "inmates" refer to it as "Alcatraz" and the boss man as the "warden", but only in a joking manner.

The "inmates" are the students at Marshall Elementary School and the "warden" is Bill Brigman, the school principal.

Reference to the school in connection with the infamous prison in San Francisco harbor is a result of the elementary school location — on an island in the middle of the French Broad River.

Like so many islands, this is one which can get wet when the flood waters come, as they did last November.

The school lost over \$350,000 in supplies, equipment and damage to the school at that time.

When the water overflowed on Marshall Island it rose to the top steps of the main building, flowing under the outside doors and buckling the wooden floor. A portion of the auditorium was flooded, ruining floor and seats in that area.

The adjacent one story building which houses the lower grades suffered even greater damage as the water flowed through the cafeteria area, overturning a large freezer and destroying other supplies.

Desks, books, chairs and teaching materials were all lost in the flood waters which swept through Marshall and surrounding areas.

The proposed new elementary school would be constructed at a different site, one above the ravages of the French Broad if it should ever decide to overflow its banks again.

The island school site, which provides for good student control since there is only once access, would then be abandoned for school purposes.

The "inmates" and their "warden," as well as the "keepers" would have to come up with new titles. Knowing school students — that would pose no great problem.

stamp of approval on the proposal in the form of a recommendation that it be approved by the county commissioners.

Following further study by the commissioners, their stamp of approval was also placed on the proposal, and it was then forwarded to the Local Government Commission.

Caldwell said the bond issue provides for about \$1.4 million for construction of the new elementary building, with the remainder of the funds to be used in renovation of existing buildings in other parts of the county.

These renovations would be in various forms, such as wiring, plumbing and other repairs to the other buildings.

Bob Edwards, county superintendent of schools, said that the school district had completed its portion of work on the proposal when it was submitted to the commissioners as a recommendation and that it is hoped the proposal would receive approval in Raleigh in time to be included in the November vote.

At the time the new high school was constructed in 1971-72, the bond issue approved by Raleigh for that purpose was restricted to \$1 million, which represented 5 percent of the total assessed valuation of the county.

Since that time the assessed valuation has increased considerably, including a revaluation in 1973 so the limits would be higher, according to Caldwell, who said the present valuation is approximately \$98 million.

This increase is due in part to the 1973 revaluation and in part to the considerable construction that has occurred in the county since that time.

The school on the island presently houses 540 students in grades kindergarten through eighth.

Upper Laurel Community Improves Facilities

Now that a successful summer recreation program is nearing an end at the Upper Laurel Community Center (Zbba Chapel), a new look is being made into the possibility of a year around program. Emphasis are being placed on the inside as well as outside activities.

Construction is well under way to enlarge and rework the athletic field so that it can accommodate young and older men's softball leagues and tournaments. Plans are in the making for the grounds to be enclosed with a chain link fence, with two modern club houses. With the enlargement

of the field enough area was utilized making it possible to erect a children's park.

Thanks to in order to those men that not only are donating their time and labor but also their machinery. Backhoes and truck beds are being used to build a bulldozer and back to Paul Carter, and a bulldozer to

Cecil Arrington and an assortment of smaller tools used by many other citizens of the community.

Many money making projects are now scheduled at the center to finance the programs. (Among them being a box supper, turkey dinner, rummage sale,

rummage sales, Halloween Carnival, etc.) The general public is asked to watch activity announcements in this paper and see representation and enjoy following. The community members are invited to