

# Whitewater Rafting

By CLIFTON METCALF JR.

This area has some of the most ruggedly beautiful rivers found anywhere. There aren't many folks who'll argue with that. Some of the vistas along the Nantahala, Oconee, French Broad, and Chatooga, where the movie "Deliverance" was filmed, are as spectacular as the views along the Colorado and Snake Rivers in the west.

Whitewater enthusiasts are attracted to this area in droves. For not only are national championships for kayaks and decked boats frequently held on the Nantahala, but as a general rule this area offers some of the best whitewater in Eastern North America.

I have watched kayak races before, but never really felt an urge to try to ride anything through rapids, no matter how small the rapids. A few days ago my editor came up with the idea I should do just that.

I kept telling Lee that there was no way he was going to get me to go down a white water river in a canoe, kayak, raft, or

anything else. No sir, there was just no way. Then he got my publisher in on the act. Everyone seemed to think it was a great idea, except me. I wonder if they're trying to tell me something.

A couple of days later I found myself shanghaied in the van of the Eastern River Trippers, a river outfitting shop based in Sylva. We were going over to ride the French Broad River in rafts.

I don't like water. I drink it, take showers with it, and wash my car with it, but that is all I want to have to do with the stuff. I sure didn't like the idea of having to swim rapids, thanks to a capsized raft. The one good thing was that rafts don't sink. They may turn over, but they don't sink.

It had rained all day the day before, causing the river to be quite high. As we prepared to put into the river just below

Marshall, we watched the swift, muddy water. Our guides, Jim and Sam, estimated that the river was flowing at about 8,000 cubic feet per second. Jim said that "anything over 5,000 feet is a "samurai" raft trip. That's what it takes to survive it. Anything less than 5,000 is just a plain ol' raft trip."

We couldn't tell whether or not he was  
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# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Class Of 1955

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## Officers Find Body Near Trail

An unidentified partially decomposed body found Sunday was the object of an intensive investigation Monday by the Madison County Sheriff's Department and Tennessee authorities.

The body, that of a middle-aged white male, was found about 7:30 p.m. Sunday near the Rich Mountain Fire Tower by Forest Service patrol officer Denny Goforth and Madison County Deputy Sheriff Cecil Blackwell.

The men were patrolling the road to the fire tower and were drawn to the body — on the Tennessee side of the line — by the odor of the rotting flesh.

Madison Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said Monday the man had apparently been dead from four to six days. He described the dead man as being slightly over six feet tall with red or sandy hair.

He left open the possibility of foul play in the death.

Goforth was the officer who found a body in the French Broad River about six months ago. The body found Tuesday was in the general area of Madison County where the body of murdered VISTA worker Nancy Morgan was found several years ago. Her murder has not yet been solved.



## MH Community Club Asks Improvement Participation

The Mars Hill Community Development Committee would like to encourage its residents to participate in the 1980 Mobile Home Improvement and Safety Contest sponsored

by the WNC Development Association and the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service. Any family or individual residing in a mobile home in the Mars Hill community is invited to enter.

Judging will be based on improvements made to the mobile home since November 1979. Some suggested improvements are site development, including grassing, planting of flowers and shrubs, and clean-up of any unsightly areas; adding steps, stoops and awnings; building patios, porches and carports, storage buildings; and adding tie-downs and other safety features where needed.

A local winner will be selected in August, and area judging will be done in the fall. Area winners will receive cash awards.

All those interested in par-

ticipating are asked to attend the Community Development Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Cornwall Hall on the Mars Hill College campus.

## The Mood Of The 4th Of July ...

The Fourth dawned with rising heat and the river sparkled in the early light. On the island some of the performers were moving around early and getting ready for the big event of the day in Marshall. Anticipation was high and mid-morning it was obvious that the town was going  
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Photos By Lewis W. Green

## Heard And Seen ... Rains Dampen The Fourth

By POP STORY

Despite torrential rains following temperatures in the mid-90's the donkey ball game on the island here Thursday night was enjoyed by hundreds of spectators. Some doubted that the game would be played but the crowd came anyway and waited the hardest part of the rain out to see the battle between members of the Marshall Volunteer fire department and members of the Marshall Wagon Train

Club. The enthusiastic crowd, although soaked, enjoyed the game and also the music before, during and after the game.

Even more surprising was the Friday afternoon crowd which attended the rodeo. Threatening rain, heavy black clouds, torrid temperature, gale winds, failed to dampen the spirit of hundreds of spectators who came to see bareback bronco riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, calf

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Denny Goforth (L) And Cecil Blackwell Found Body