

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY
GENERAL DELIVERY
MARSHALL NC 28753



MICROSWITCH MANUFACTURING presented two \$500 scholarships to Mars Hill College students recently. Robert Holey, left, presented check to Teresa Griffin of Marshall while Audrey Hensley receives check from Microswitch personnel director Paul Burwell. Both students are Madison High School graduates and freshmen at Mars Hill College.

Marshall Meeting Postponed

A scheduled meeting of Marshall town officials and representatives of the town's engineering firm and the Farmers Home Administration was postponed Friday morning and rescheduled for Monday morning.

Mayor Betty Wild called the meeting to discuss Marshall's troubled sewer system. During their Dec. 10 meeting, the aldermen asked for a meeting with engineer Bill Lapsley and representatives of Taylor and Murphy Construction Co., contractors on the town's sewer project.

The aldermen called for the meeting after learning that only half the homes in town have been connected to the new sewer lines installed by Taylor and Murphy.

Marshall is having difficulty in making the scheduled payments on

its bond with the Farmers Home Administration because the homes and businesses not connected to the system cannot be charged the higher water and sewer rates needed to make the payments. The town has had to use general fund revenues to make the latest \$19,000 semiannual payment on the FmHA bonds.

Mayor Wild and aldermen Sammy Lunsford and John Dodson waited nearly an hour Friday morning for Lapsley to appear. After several calls to his office, Wild announced that there had been an unexpected change in schedule. Neither Lapsley or Larry Merrill of the Farmers Home Administration were able to attend the Friday meeting. Wild said the meeting would be rescheduled for Monday morning at 9 a.m.

Hendon Opposes Nuclear Dump

Newly elected U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon announced last week that he will form an advisory group of environmentalists, geologists and concerned citizens to oppose the location of nuclear waste disposal sites in Western North Carolina.

A recent study of potential nuclear waste storage sites conducted by the U.S. Dept. of Energy identified several potential locations in North Carolina. Although none of the North Carolina sites are included in current plans for the first such waste dump,

Hendon said he wanted to "make sure these beautiful mountains and the people who live in them are not subjected to the potential hazard that nuclear waste storage brings."

Hendon has suggested that the first storage site be located at former nuclear test sites in Nevada. "The ground in Nevada has been contaminated for generations, perhaps forever. It is only prudent that we use an area like that as opposed to even considering Western North Carolina," Hendon said.

CP&L Seeks Rate Hike

Carolina Power and Light Company has notified French Broad Electric Membership Corporation that it has filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 15.6 percent increase in its wholesale rates. CP and L wants 10.2 percent of this increase to go into effect as early as February 14th and the remaining 5.4 percent added in about five months.

"I am very concerned about the impact an increase of this size will have on our members," said Co-Op

Manager Charles Tolley, "and, of course, we will do all we can to reduce or eliminate this raise." Tolley indicated that the Co-Op had asked its attorneys and engineers to intervene in opposition to these increases and was, at the same time, negotiating with CP and L to lower their request.

"As soon as it is determined how this increase will affect French Broad EMC, we will notify the members how much our rates will have to increase," Tolley stated.

More Will Provide Community Service

Convicted drunken drivers won't be the only lawbreakers sentenced to community service in the future. A new law enacted by the state General Assembly now allows judges to sentence other offenders to community service instead of active jail terms.

In 1983, the General Assembly passed the Safe Roads Act, calling for periods of community service for drivers convicted under the new driving while impaired statute. The Safe Roads Act created five levels of punishment for convicted drunken drivers, based on the mitigating and aggravating circumstances surrounding the arrest. The lesser three levels of punishment call for terms of community service ranging from 24 to 72 hours. The two highest levels of punishment require jail terms ranging from seven days to two years, with fines up to \$1,000.

Danny Hunter oversees the DWI Community Service Work program in Madison, Yancey and Mitchell Counties. Hunter reports that the program has worked well in its first year, providing thousands of dollars worth of free labor to town and local agencies participating in the program.

The new law passed during the 1984 session of the General Assembly provides that judges may sentence offenders to community service instead of jail terms.

may be required to serve up to 40 hours of community service in lieu of an active jail sentence.

Those convicted of misdemeanors punishable by jail terms of up to two years can be required to serve up to 100 hours of community service instead. Persons convicted of non-violent felonies may also be required to serve up to 200 hours of community service instead of going to jail.

Defendants with a history of assaults or violent behavior, those who have previously failed to complete a community service sentence, sex and drug-related offenders and minor traffic offenders will not be considered for community service.

The present DWI Community Service Work Program and the Community Service Restitution Program will be combined and headed by the Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Hunter noted that Chief District Court Judge Robert H. Lacey was instrumental in establishing the local community service program.

Hunter also mentioned the appointment of Henry L. Shivers as assistant to the program here in the 11th Judicial District. Shivers is a Yancey County native.



REP. LISTON B. RAMSEY
...named to third term as Speaker of the House

Ramsey Is Renominated

By ROBERT KOENIG

North Carolina Rep. Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall was nominated for an unprecedented third term as speaker of the House by the Democratic caucus Thursday in Raleigh. Selection by the 79 Democrats is tantamount to election in the Democrat-controlled chamber.

Ramsey, a 12-term member of the State House, was unopposed for the post he has held since 1981. His selection as House speaker will become official when the full General Assembly convenes in February. Ramsey said on Thursday that he hopes to announce the appointment of committee chairmanships before the session opens.

In accepting the nomination, Ramsey told the House Democrats, "We will convene on Feb. 5 under unusual political circumstances. It is the second time in this century that the North Carolina executive leadership and the legislative leadership are from different political parties." He reminded the Democrats that the responsibility for sound government remains with the Democrats and concluded by reminding the legislators, "...let us bear in mind at all times that what we do is for the people, keeping their well-being foremost in mind at all times and making all our decisions on what will do the greatest good for the greatest number."

The Democratic caucus also chose Cleveland County Rep. Jack Hunt to serve as speaker pro tem.

Ray Sawyer To Head New A-B Tech Center

Ray E. Sawyer has been named director of A-B Tech's newly established Madison County Center.

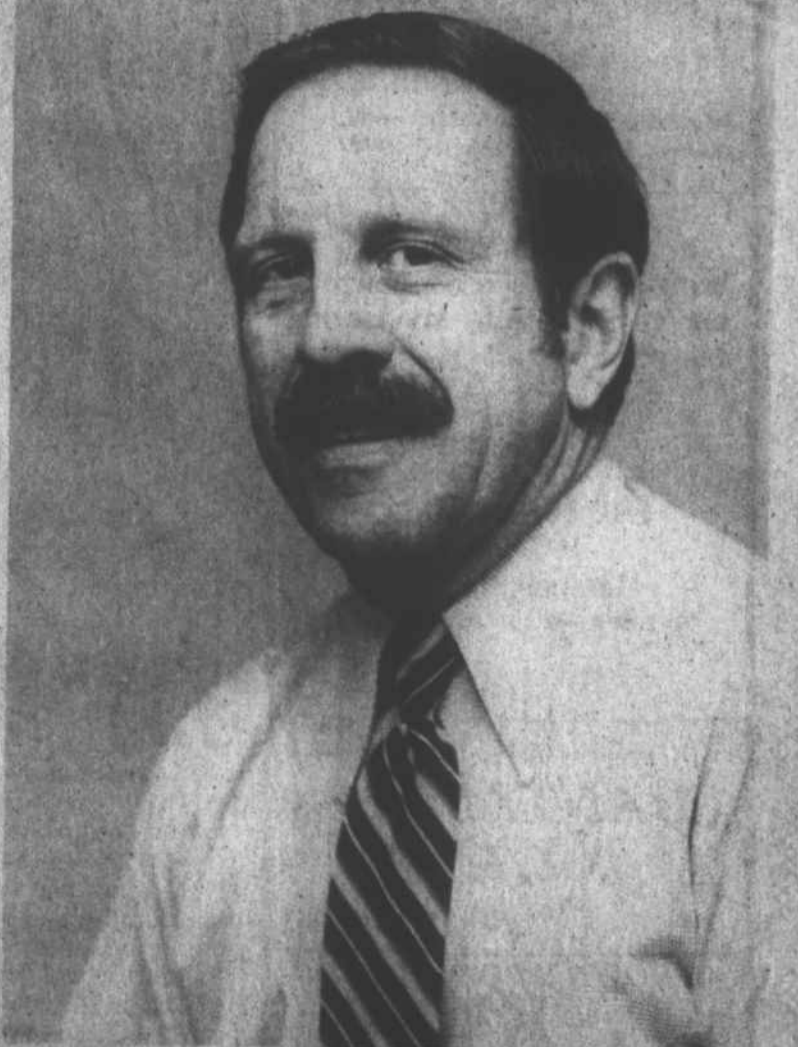
For the past several years, Sawyer has been director of the College's Continuing Education program with primary responsibility for fire training, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. In his new position, he will coordinate classes to be scheduled at sites throughout Madison County. In discussing his new assignment Sawyer said, "My primary goal is to broaden A-B Tech's services to the residents of Madison County through our Continuing Education offerings." He is presently scheduling meetings with civic groups, community clubs, church organizations, and various individuals in order to assess needs and interests. The College will make available classes in several areas, for example, adult basic education, high school equivalency training, practical skills, health and hospital education, and avocational courses, for adults 18 years of age and older.

Sawyer, who began his teaching career at Walnut High School in 1955, says, "I am pleased to return to the County after thirty years and am particularly glad that I will have the opportunity to promote A-B Tech to Madison County residents." As director of Continuing Education, Sawyer coordinated fire service training programs in Madison County and has worked with the Mountains of Madison Enterprise in Mars Hill and Unaka Center in Hot Springs.

A native and current resident of Weaverville, Sawyer graduated from Newberry College. He taught and coached football and baseball at Clyde A. Erwin High School before joining A-B Tech in 1966.

Married to the former Carolyn Crawford, a teacher at Erwin High, he is a member of the Weaverville First Presbyterian Church where he sings in the choir. He is also active in the Asheville Chapter of the Barber Shop Singing Society. He enjoys fishing, woodworking, and gardening. Along with his enthusiasm for A-B Tech and its ability to serve adults in Madison County, Ray has a lot to talk about as he visits with community leaders in his effort to introduce the services of the Center and to identify the educational needs it can serve.

He wants to hear from anyone with a suggestion for classes. His office is located in the Marshall Elementary School where he can be reached weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call collect 649-2978 or 649-2947.



RAY SAWYER

New Housing Opened In Mars Hill

Ivy Ridge Public Housing Project, Jarvis Branch Road, Mars Hill, set the stage for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. December 13th. Many tenants had already moved in the previous week.

Ivy River consists of 40 units; 12 3-bedroom houses and 28 2-bedroom apartments which are located in 7 quadrants. There are two handicapped apartments which are located on the ground floor, designed to accommodate tenants who might be confined to wheelchairs.

Art Strappa, Housing Manager, will accept applications daily from low income families who are able to utilize 1 and 2 bedroom units. A quality of life survey will be conducted to ensure a quality of life. You are invited to discuss your housing needs with Mr. Strappa by call him at 649-2947 or visiting the Madison County Housing Authority office, Mars Hill, N.C. Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

