

# Ramsey To Receive Honorary Degree From Mars Hill

House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey will be presented an honorary degree and Dr. Leon E. Smith, president of the N.C. Baptist State Convention, will speak during commencement activities celebrating Mars Hill College's 132nd year Sunday, May 8.

Ramsey, D-Madison, will receive the doctor of laws degree, only the ninth such degree Mars Hill award. An alumnus of the school, Ramsey is the only person in Tar Heel history to serve more than two terms as Speaker of the House. A native of

Marshall, he has served 13 terms in the legislature, longer than any of the other 119 members.

Smith, the moderate presidential candidate of the 1.2 million-member Baptist convention who was elected by a suprisingly large margin last November, will speak during baccalaureate service.

Activities begin Friday afternoon, May 6, with a senior art exhibition in the Fine Arts Building. They continue on Saturday, May 7, with the semi-annual business meeting of the

boards of trustees and advisors. The 240 seniors and their parents will be honored that evening at a banquet which will be followed by a pops concert.

On Saturday morning, the seniors and their guests will gather for the traditional 11 a.m. service in Moore Auditorium to hear Smith, who is also the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, where he has served for nearly 30 years. His election by the Baptist Convention, by a two-thirds majority, was interpreted as an in-

dication of the relative strengths of the moderates and conservatives in the state.

A native of Williamston, S.C., he attended Anderson College before completing his undergraduate degree at Furman University. He also earned three degrees, including doctor of ministry, from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Before being elected as president of the convention, Smith held several offices at the local, regional and state levels. He was awarded Anderson

College's first alumni achievement award in 1974, and in 1980 he was presented the Brotherhood Award for "service to humanity through religion."

Ramsey will receive his degree during graduation ceremonies which begin at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon, also in Moore. A veteran of World War II, Ramsey returned home to run a family business in Marshall. He was first elected to the legislature in 1960, and with the exception of the 1965 session, has served continuously since

then. He was honored by the college in 1976 as the "Alumnus of the Year" and was recently named one of the most efficient legislators.



## Spring Cleaning

Residents of the Upper Laurel community turned out last week for annual spring cleaning of the roadsides. A total of 90 people cleaned nine roads, collecting 300 bags of trash. A large trailer for larger items was placed at the dumpsite and was completely filled. Some of those Upper Laurel residents will be back out again cleaning this weekend for Clean Streams Day 1988.



## Hiking, Camping, Rafting Trip Planned Through Madison County

The French Broad River Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with a Hot Springs whitewater rafting company, will sponsor the Second Annual Madison County Hike/Camp/Raft weekend on May 7-8.

The hike will leave out of Hot Springs Saturday morning, following Lover's Leap Ridge Trail with panoramic views of the French Broad and Big Laurel rivers.

The group will then hike up the Laurel through an area which is soon to be registered with the N.C. Natural Heritage Program. This dazzling natural garden contains more than 250 different species of vascular plants, one of the most impressive

floral spectacles in all of North Carolina.

The moderate, roughly 7-mile hike will end in late afternoon, after which individuals may either return to Hot Springs for dinner and lodgings or camp at the new Silver Mine Creek Group Campsite.

On Sunday, campers may again choose between cooking individually and eating in town. After breakfast, the group will meet at Carolina Wilderness on U.S. 25-70 at 10 a.m. to check in for a whitewater raft trip on Section 9 of the French Broad, from Barnard to Hot Springs (minimum age 8 years, no experience necessary). The trip will end around 5

p.m. Sunday, back at Carolina Wilderness.

The public is invited to join Foundation members for all or part of the weekend event. Reservations for the raft trip can be made by calling Carolina Wilderness at 1-800-872-7437. The cost of the raft trip will be \$25, including a hot lunch and shuttle services.

The remainder of the weekend will be free, apart from whatever each person spends on food. Those wishing to camp will need to bring equipment, though some sharing may be possible.

For more information, call the French Broad River Foundation at (704) 252-1097.

## Marshall Elementary Students Win In National History Day Contests

Marshall Elementary School students have been recently racking up awards in connection with National History Day competition.

Entries by students at Marshall Elementary received ratings of "superior" at district level competition March 18 at Western Carolina University.

A group performance of "The Nancy Franklin Story: A Mountain Paradox" by Brenda Crowe, Deann Frisby and Micah Thomason won a first-place award.

That performance also took first-place honors in competition at the state level Saturday at Wake Forest University. The Marshall Elementary girls go on to represent North Carolina at the national level in the Junior Performance Division of the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland on June 12-16.

An historical paper -- "Stackhouse: A Forgotten Community" -- by Jeaninne Aumiller took a second-place award in district competition. Her entry finished in third place at



Marshall Elementary School students Brenda Crowe, Deann Frisby and Micah Thomason won first-place in district and state levels of National History Day competition.

the state competition at Wake Forest. A group project, "A Carolina Enigma: Moonshine," by Melissa

Metcalf and April Worley received a superior rating at the district level at Western Carolina University.

## Postage Rate Increase Is First Since 1985

Although to many people it may seem like only yesterday that the cost of buying a first-class stamp jumped to 22 cents, the April 3 postal rate increase to 25 cents was the first since Feb. 17, 1985.

To the average household, the first-class rate adjustment will mean less than 20 cents per week and less than \$10 a year in added expenditures.

The Postal Service is financed by those who use it -- not by the taxpayers. In 1944, when first-class postage was 3 cents, the average production worker earned \$1.01 per hour and could purchase 33 first-class stamps for an hour's wage. Today, the average American production worker earns \$9.12 an hour and can purchase 36 stamps for an hour's

wage. Prior to reorganization, the Post Office Department since 1920 had been in the black only during the war years of 1943-45. The USPS today is managed to operate in a businesslike manner and to avoid the losses that plagued its predecessor, postal officials say.

In the past 10 years, there has been

net income in five of those years, and the Postal Service has been approximately \$560 million in the black for

the period, close to the requirement of "breaking even" over time, postal officials say.

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