

# the mountain

## HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Star Route — Box 40-A

Highlands, NC 28741

704/526-5838

Volume III, No. 1

Wendie Highsmith, Editor

January/February 1982

### Thanks to Auctions — Dining Hall and Lounge Insulated

With Auctioneer Steve Carter at the helm, attendees at the Annual Meeting and the Thanksgiving weekend contributed over \$1,300 toward the insulation of the Dining Hall and Lounge.

Bidding on items as diverse as old lost and found, boards, insulation, nails, etc. the spirits ran high with the goal of completing our #1 winterizing project.

Today, you wouldn't recognize the building, as beautiful knotty pine walls and an addition to the dining hall with a view of the valley greet you. The addition was made possible by taking out a wall and expanding to the porch.

An endless number of volunteers (too many to name) helped with this project along with our maintenance crew. To all of you who helped by working or contributing funds, we thank you. You will benefit during cold times from a nice warm building.



Would you believe a can of  
Institutional Comet?

### Yes, We're Open in the Winter

Forgive us for repeating ourselves, but we keep getting asked! Steve and Evelyn Carter live on THE MOUNTAIN year round and are pleased to have visitors during the week or on weekends. The rates are much cheaper, and you can usually cook your own food and enjoy your very own heated space in peaceful comfort. Also, our new snow plow will insure that the road stays open. If you have any concerns, stop in Scaly Mountain or Highlands and call us. We'll then meet you at the bottom of the road.

### Directors' Corner

Mo  
LARRY

This Thanksgiving's Sunday service was probably the most tearful one we've had so far! The sharing of poetry and prose written by our inspired guests has an effect on us all. We struggle together with the depth of feelings which THE MOUNTAIN brings forth in us and are thankful for those who are able to put those feelings into words. We have had a lot of encouragement to publish those writings and will do so this spring, so send in your Mountain-inspired prose, poetry or songs right away.

We feel so grateful for the wonderful support we've had at the Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving holidays. Our successful auctions and the amount of work accomplished by volunteers are a testimony to your dedication to this community which we are building together. We thank you!

Our Summer Program brochure is now at the printers and should be in the mail to you by early February. We're excited about the summer — We've found some excellent ministers and workshop leaders, the number of programs has doubled to give you more choices, youth camp opportunities have been increased, and parents will be able to bring their children with them for most programs this summer, knowing they will be cared for by THE MOUNTAIN'S staff. An outline of most of the summer schedule is included on the back page of this newsletter.

We'll be in the Bahamas for some vacation time in early January and will be in several churches and fellowships in Florida from February 21-March 1 (Sarasota, Naples, Fort Myers, Port Charlotte, Bradenton, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Orlando, Gainesville, and Tallahassee!) Hope to see some of you Floridians on this trip.

Our best to all of you as you begin 1982. We wish you many happy visits to THE MOUNTAIN!

### Large Tent Sought

Nature Director, Nancy Suda, asks that anyone willing to donate a large tent to the Nature Program, please contact Mo and Larry. Having one will make some trips much easier for us.

## Winter/Early Spring Calendar

January 22-24 ..... Ski Weekend\*  
 January 29-31 ..... Ski Weekend\*  
 February 12-14 ..... Ski Weekend\*  
 March 12-14 . Creative Non-Violence/Bob Alpern  
 April 16-18 ..... Ric & Billie Masten  
 April 23-25 ..... Ric & Billie Masten

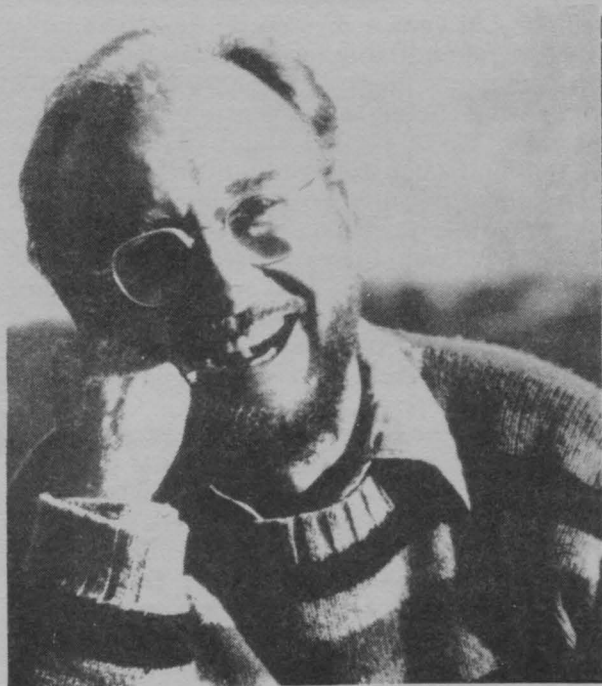
\*Adult cost for each of these weekends is \$50 to include room and board (2 nights, 6 meals). Transportation will be available from the Atlanta Airport and the Atlanta Cliff Valley Church. Departure from the airport will be 6:00 p.m. Friday (with dinner on the way) and the cost of transportation will be \$10 round trip.

To register for these events or for any times during the winter, send a deposit of \$10 per person to Mo and Larry Wheeler:

Weekdays: 1120 Gunnison Ct.  
 Clarkston, Ga. 30021  
 404/299-2677

Weekends: 704/526-5838

...



Ric Masten

Save the weekends of April 16-18 and April 23-25 for special times with Ric and Billie Masten. Two entirely different programs. This is their first trip to the Southeast in 3 years ... Don't miss them! (There will be further information in the next newsletter.)

## 1982 Rates Announced

Starting on January 5, 1982, our new rates go into effect. Whereas our heated cabins with kitchenettes have gone up in price, the one-bedroom cabins are actually cheaper than last year!

### Room

Facilities	November, December, January, February, March, April	May, June, July, August September, October
2 Bedroom Cabins with Kitchenettes, Lodge Bedrooms— Double Occupancy	\$15 per person per night	\$17 per person per night
1 Bedroom Cabins, Cabin Dorms, Lodge Bedrooms— Dormitory Style Program Center	\$10 per person per night	\$12 per person per night

- Above rates are for ages 18 and over. Persons 13-17 are 50% of the adult rates; ages 12 and under are free.
- Youth Group rates will be 50% of the above rates, including advisors.
- Life Members and their immediate families will receive a 50% discount on room rates except when part of a summer program or during certain other situations.
- Special weeknight rates (Sunday through Thursday) are available except during the summer and holidays: \$14 vs \$17; \$12 vs \$15; \$10 vs \$12; \$8 vs \$10.
- Work period rates include no room charge in return for the individuals spending approximately 50% of their time assisting in camp work projects. These must be scheduled in advance and are done so at the convenience of THE MOUNTAIN's staff.
- Reservations will be confirmed in writing upon receipt of a 10% deposit. The confirmation will include a map with directions, a listing of things to bring, and some policies and procedures. Deposits are 100% refundable up to 4 weeks prior to arrival.

### Board

Ages 13 and over .....	\$12.50 per day
Ages 8-12 .....	\$ 9.00 per day
Ages 4-7 .....	\$ 6.00 per day
Ages 3 and under .....	Free



# My First On "The Mountain"

Sheila Summers

... The Mountain is beautiful. The trees on top of such a place are stunted, gnarled, and closer to the upward reaching of us beings here on earth. No, they are not quite as lofty as the ones growing on the lower slopes.

The accommodations are varied. Some of the buildings date back to the twenties, many are new and others have been rebuilt or with additions. The work continues as do the dreams.

I loved the dining hall with the delicious meals prepared by the young people under the direction of Ruth Kinsman. Being a full time wife and mother, homemaker, it was especially nice to have someone else doing the menu planning, cooking and the dishes. And it was comforting to have always available hot water for an afternoon cup of tea, or a late night cup of coffee, and no one to question my peculiar notion of timing ...

Since the lectures and small discussion groups held their sessions in the morning, every morning, it made a good start for the day ... The rest of the day and evenings we could do as we pleased: choose from among the many different hikes, trips around the mountain, or to town, experiment with the many crafts offered, browse or shop in the Mountain store, share a good conversation or tennis match with Sally Bellamy, try out the horseback riding (which includes a lesson if you like), or the always relaxing moments of "nothing at all" in which something wonderful happens. For me, personally, there were some wonderful happenings, like:

Learning to play Chopsticks from John Michael Cooper, learning to play Ping Pong from Oran Rankin, learning to play Big Boggle with Cynthia Newby and Virginia Ormsby and reading Virginia's wonderful poetry, definitely Universalist Unitarian.

A great conversation with Ann and George Ragan touching on the University of Florida from a 30 or 40 year perspective. It's impossible to describe my feelings for Alice and John Hull except to thank them, to wish them joy and to hope others get to meet and know them.

And most of all the stories! Huxley or Einstein or perhaps someone else said "The universe is not held together by laws but rather by stories." So it was people's stories that I call the miracle of the Mountain. Yes, I know the righteous right has in some sects proclaimed there are no more miracles, that all has been revealed two thousand years ago, but if that were true why bother to get up each day?

Evelyn Carter's nature walks brought us to a respectful Latin and nickname basis with the local flora.

Nancy Robinson and Lu Morski had far more faith than I did in the statement that swimming was possible on the trip to the Chatooga Loop Trail.

How I wish I'd brought my cut-offs! So when it says swimming is possible believe it. However, we did also enjoy wading in this clear creek, or variable course river.

Seeing and hearing Rev. Don Male's Astronomy show was incredible. There we were, watching a close-up of Jupiter, the Sea of Tranquility, the Horse Nebula, and the music felt true.

Lee Knight's folk tales and beautiful singing brought another magic into our being. Lee also taught us folk dances, a chance to feel the joy of others while performing a logical pattern, and ah, do I love to dance!

The last evening and final morning service was not so much a good-bye but rather an extended hello.

With all this, could there be more? For me there were moments when past and present came together. I do not mean a living in the past. But rather a reaching out to that part of myself, left so very long ago (half a lifetime away) on, as Robert Frost so aptly put, "The Road Not Taken" which was quite necessary for any future I might have. Thank you Mo and Larry Wheeler, and everyone for everything.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the November 1981 issue of the *Universalist Herald* in a slightly longer version. Thanks to Sheila Summers, a participant in our August 23-29 week, for sharing her first experience at THE MOUNTAIN with us.

## Staff Applications

Mo and Larry will be mailing staff applications in early February to anyone who has expressed interest in serving on: *The Camp Staff* (18 years and older) in maintenance, the kitchen, waterfront, horses, crafts, athletics, nature, general programming, office work, etc., and *The Youth Program Staff* for Junior Counselors (17 years and older) and Senior Counselors (19 years and older) who have specific skills or are generalists.

Jobs are available beginning as early as May 23 and continuing as late as September 15, with shorter time periods available, ranging from 4-6 weeks.

Let Mo and Larry know soon if you want to receive a staff application.

## Florida Bus Planned for Week of June 6

We're planning a chartered bus trip leaving the Tampa Bay area on Saturday, June 5. It will make stops in Orlando, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, and Columbia, SC, on its way to THE MOUNTAIN. It will retrace this route and return to Tampa on Sunday, June 12. Home hospitality will be provided coming and going. Senior Citizens' Discounts are available for anyone 65 years and older that week, and programming will include English Folk Dancing, Photography, Nature, and Celebrating Our At Homeness in the World! The Summer brochure will have more details.

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## 1982 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Week	Minister of the Week	Programs
May 30 - June 5	-----	A Week of Rivers, Crafts, Work Week
June 6 - 12	Charles D. Saleska Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Gainesville, FL	Exploring Nature, Darkroom, Celebrating Our At-Homeness
June 13 - 19	Judith A. Urquhart The Peoples Church, Cedar Rapids, IA	Creative Writing, Renewal of Self, Cosmic Theology Sr. High Camp (week 1)
June 20 - 26	George C. B. (Pete) Tolleson Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Greenville, SC	Creative Writing, Painting, Tai Chi, Astronomy, Tennis, Sr. High Camp (week 2)
June 27 - July 4	Frank L. (Terry) Sweetser Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church, Charlottesville, VA	2nd Annual Religious Education Conferenc Being Sane in an Insane World, Work Week — ages 14-17, Adventure Week — ages 17-19
July 5 - 11	John Buehrens First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX	String Ensemble, Exploration with Emerson, Adventure Week — ages 14-17
July 11 - 17	Richard F. Boeke First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, CA	The Inward Journey, Photography, Youth Camp — ages 11-13 (week 1)
July 18 - 24	Kenneth T. MacLean Cedar Lane Unitarian Church Bethesda, MD	1st Annual Leadership School, Myths to Live By, Youth Camp — ages 11-13 (week 2)
July 25 - 31	Richard S. Gilbert First Unitarian Church, Rochester, NY	Theology Through Biography (Philosophers), Gilbert & Sullivan, Awareness of Death in Living, Youth Camp — ages 11-13 (week 3)
August 1 - 7	Michael McGee The Unitarian Church, Meadville, PA	Rockhounding, Adventures for All Ages, Youth Camp — ages 11-13 (week 4) & 7-10 (week 1)
August 8 - 14	Jan Vickery Knost The Unitarian Church, Summit, NJ	Rockhounding, Parents as Resident Theologians, Discovering Your Poetic Self, Career Enhancement/Change, Youth Camp — ages 7-10 (week 2)
August 15 - 21	Timothy W. Ashton Roanoke Valley Unitarian Church, Roanoke, VA	Adventure Week; Owning Your Religious Past; Discussing Sex, Death & Divorce with Children; Sing For the Fun of It; Adult RE? - Adult RE! Youth Camp — ages 7-10 (week 3)
August 22 - 28	Richard A. Kellaway Unitarian Church of Sarasota, FL	Living Well on Less, Crafts, Home Repair, Personal Transformations, Tennis
August 29 - September 4	Patricia Bowen First Unitarian Church, South Bend, IN	Baskets, Pottery, Darkroom, The Journey Inward, Work Week, Exploring Nature

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