



# the mountain

## HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

841 Highway 106

Highlands, NC 28741

704/526-5838

Volume V, No. 1

Wendie Highsmith, Editor

March/April 1984

### '84 Summer On The Way!

The 1984 Summer Program brochures have been mailed, and we're really excited about another great summer on THE MOUNTAIN. Special thanks go to *Wally Klarman* for printing the brochures (free!)...to *Evelyn Carter* for the cover drawing...to *Karla Frings* and *Bob and Juanita Polk* for helping, and to all the teenage volunteers who helped with the mailing. Write for a brochure if for some reason you haven't received one - or pick one up at your church or fellowship.

### Steve Carter To Resign As Maintenance Manager

Many of you have already learned that Steve Carter is planning to resign as Maintenance Manager in September. Steve and Evelyn plan to live in Highlands, however, and continue their association with their MOUNTAIN family working on a part-time basis. Evelyn will continue as Crafts Director during the summer, of course.

We are very sorry to be losing Steve in this position. His good humor and outgoing personality have won him many friends at THE MOUNTAIN. His hard work and variety of skills have left their imprint on the facility, which has shown incredible improvements since 1979. Steve's dedication, leadership, and service to the THE MOUNTAIN deserve our highest praise and appreciation. We are glad that Steve and Evelyn will be continuing to work with THE MOUNTAIN in other capacities.

### Maintenance Manager's Position Open

Applications are now being considered for Maintenance Manager at THE MOUNTAIN. The position will be open as of October 1, 1984, possibly earlier, with a prior period of training under Steve Carter's supervision. The job entails responsibility for the buildings, grounds, and equipment at the camp. Write to Mo and Larry Wheeler for an application and job description.

### New Kitchen, New Cook

The kitchen is being remodeled just in time for our new cook to take over. *Julie Paulk* has been hired as Food Service Director as of April 1st. Julie worked for gourmet chef *Bob Geller* our first summer and has been trained as a cook at Patrick's Cafe' in Atlanta. She's anxious to return to THE MOUNTAIN on a full time basis, and we're glad to have her back.

Julie will find the kitchen an entirely different place - with new walls, new ceiling, and new floor, to say nothing of all the new wires *John Vacher* has hidden away. Special thanks go to *Jake Haun*, *John Hutchison* and the maintenance staff for their effort on this project.

We'll all miss *Ruth and Shep Kinsman*, who are taking the summer off to travel.

LARRY

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

MO

Larry and I are often asked how we came to be involved in THE MOUNTAIN. We have given the response to this question in the worship services we have done in the past two years. People seem glad to learn where we're coming from, so I thought I'd share it with you in this column for those who haven't heard it.

Larry and I have been married for 20 years, and in the first 8 years of our marriage we moved 8 times. We were part of the "mobile generation." One of our moves was to Needham, MA. In the UU church in Needham, there was a lot of tension between the older UUs who had lived there all their lives, and the younger people who were moving in and "changing things!"

The younger folks decided to try a cooperative vacation experiment. We rented an old inn on the ocean, and Larry and I ended up in charge. People in the church signed up for their vacation weeks and were mixed together at random. To our surprise, some of the older folks in the church joined us. There were anywhere from 20-50 people at a time.

I had just read a book by Urie Bronfenbrenner where he talks about the separation of generations in the USA and the effect that has on our society. When we separate everyone by age groups, there is no way to pass along the positive values of our society. This has been accentuated by our mobility, which has separated us from our extended families. Economic conditions may have resulted in less moving around, but many of us remain in cities far away from our original sources of support.

Well, with the idea in mind that we needed to re-establish connections between the generations, I assigned jobs to everyone and mixed up families and ages as much as possible. For example, if a person had small children, I assigned them to wash dishes with a teenager.

What we learned from the experience was that just becoming familiar with people helped break down the walls between them. Young and old came to accept their differences and learn from them rather than use them as an excuse to not connect with each other. The entire church community became a family! The whole atmosphere of the church changed.

We moved to Atlanta that fall, but the summer program in Needham continued for another 5 years until the inn was no longer available. I guess because we had made such good friends in Needham and felt the pain of leaving them so deeply, that we avoided getting involved in Atlanta. We had only been in Atlanta for a year when our 3½ year old son suddenly died of Reyes Syndrome. That was 12 years ago.

At that time of grieving, we felt even more so the isolation of

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## The Sally Bellamy Deck Is On The Drawing Board

We are truly grateful to *Sally Bellamy* (and her friends) for making possible the building of a new deck on the side of The Lodge. The deck will be a bi-level octagon and will hopefully be ready in time for Sally's social hours this summer. A special thanks also go to *Lee Cook* and *Scott Nutting* for helping with the design and construction plans. We know you'll enjoy this new space for relaxing at THE MOUNTAIN.

## New Signs Greet Guests at MOUNTAIN Entrance

Thanks to Life Members *Pete and Velma Smith* of the Columbia, SC Fellowship, we now have beautiful new colored signs at the entrance to THE MOUNTAIN. The Smiths designed and created the three-dimensional effect by sand blasting. They also made two smaller signs saying, "THE MOUNTAIN - JUST AHEAD" which have been placed down the road from the entrance. We really appreciate your work Pete and Velma, and many will be thinking of you as they look for the place to turn!

## Elderhostel Leaders Needed

With expanded Elderhostel programming, we need more people to teach classes for 1½ hours a day, 5 days a week. If you have a special skill or academic expertise and would like to spend a free week at THE MOUNTAIN, please send a description of your qualifications and your course ideas to Nancy Suda, c/o THE MOUNTAIN. We are presently planning programs for October-December of 1984. Elderhostel participants have proven to be fun, inquisitive, interested and interesting - a joy to teach.



## A Great Place For Sisters

And brothers, too...But the sisters pictured above all met on THE MOUNTAIN one week last summer for a reunion. No, they're not all related, but each one has a sister in the picture.

From left to right are (back row) *Ruth Hyde*, *Dorothy Conlon*, *Carolyn Levenson*, *Maggie Mullins*, (front row) *Jean Cate*, *Betty Wiggins*, and *Iris Brown*. They came from Washington, New Mexico, Tennessee, Texas, Florida and Vermont!

Why not meet your sister on THE MOUNTAIN... or get the whole family together for a reunion!

## New Patrons and Life Members

We extend a very special thanks to *Barbara and Ron Buck* of Norfolk and to *Mike and Linda Plummer* of Atlanta - our newest Patron members!

Also, we're pleased to announce the following new Life Members: *Byrdie Palmore* of Durham, NC; *Louise Tucker Birch* of Norfolk, VA; *Elizabeth McMaster* (Second) of Atlanta, GA; *Celeste Dickson* of Bush, LA; *Harold A. Johnson* (Additional) of Asheville, NC; *Violet and Donald Dawe* of High Shoals, GA; *Earl and Audrey Broadhag* (Second) of Ackworth, GA; *Marjorie C. Riley* (Second) of Bokeelia, FL, and Highlands, NC; and *Mary Walker* of Hixson, TN. We really appreciate your support! We also want to thank SUUSI for its \$1000 contribution.

Since the last newsletter, we have received \$25,264 in new pledges and \$33,246 in cash for pledge payments. Keep it comin'!!

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mobile generation. We took a long look at what was important to us in life. Larry started refusing promotions so that we could stay in Atlanta. And motivated by our need for support, we helped start the extended family program in our church.

Over 400 people signed up for families - without knowing who else was in them - just knowing they were to be "like an extended family" of cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. We knew then that we were not the only ones with needs for a sense of belonging!

Our involvement with the extended families led to our involvement with SUUSI which led to our involvement with THE MOUNTAIN. We feel it is a place where the "family" of southeastern UUs can have a "home," so to speak. As we move to THE MOUNTAIN permanently this spring, we can truly say it is our home, but we hope all of you feel as you visit that it is your home too.



## Short of a Bus (Wish List!)

We can always use donations of automobiles or vans, and it can often be to your advantage to donate your vehicle and claim the deduction rather than sell it. We also need a flat truck or large trailer to haul rafts. And, of course, what we REALLY need is a BUS. You might consult your accountant regarding tax advantages of purchasing a bus and leasing it to us.

On the domestic side, we can use cribs, sheets, blankets, towels, lamps, tables, etc.

Check with THE MOUNTAIN about what you might donate. We might be able to help with transportation of your items if that will make it easier for you.

## Spring Into Spring!



April and May are great times to visit **THE MOUNTAIN** and to see spring in varying degrees of readiness as you travel to our mountaintop elevation of 4200 feet. How about one of the following weekends?

**April 20-22 – EASTER on THE MOUNTAIN.** Special activities for all ages including Sunday's Sunrise service and Easter Egg Hunt. A great time for a family gathering.

**May 4-6 – OUR VERY FIRST RAFT TRIP IN OUR VERY OWN RAFTS.** A fun weekend centered around our first whitewater raft trip of the season on the Nantahala River. (Add \$19 for the raft trip.)

**May 11-13 – SPRING FLING.** Our 3rd annual celebration of the coming of spring to **THE MOUNTAIN**. Hikes, dancing, and more! (Add \$5/adult and \$1/youth for activities/parties.)

**May 25-28 – LIFE MEMBERS' WEEKEND.** Friday night to Monday noon... a special weekend for special people. Invitations will be mailed to all Life Members by early April. Save the weekend on your calendars.

Other weekends also have space, so be sure to call if you're interested in another weekend this spring. To register for all but Life Members' Weekend, send \$10 per person deposit to **THE MOUNTAIN** and indicate your anticipated arrival and departure times.

### **Beginning Whitewater Canoe Clinic April 27-29**

Imagine... two full days on the beautiful whitewater rivers of North Carolina learning beginning canoeing skills and enjoying the out of doors! The total cost is only \$95 and includes meals Friday evening through Sunday lunch, two nights' lodging at **THE MOUNTAIN**, transportation to the rivers, all equipment, and instruction by our highly trained leaders. Sign up right away because space limited. Send a \$25 deposit to Nancy Suda, c/o **THE MOUNTAIN**.

### **A Different Kind of Work**

Need a break from your everyday work? Bored with retirement and ready for a new challenge? Why not spend a few days or a week at **THE MOUNTAIN** helping to prepare buildings for summer and be with other UUs in a relaxing atmosphere! We've set aside the weeks of April 8-13 and April 22-27 (as well as our regular work week from May 28 to June 3), and we have work for the unskilled as well as the skilled. You can work half time and just pay for meals, or work full time and your "vacation" is on us!

### **Board Moves Ahead With Long Range Plan**

At its January meeting, **THE MOUNTAIN**'s Board of Trustees appointed a committee to examine the waste water system based on a well-conceived proposal by *Larry Landrum*, our At-Large Member from Blacksburg, Va. The proposal centers around a centralized absorption field at the bottom of **THE MOUNTAIN**. In a related matter, the City of Atlanta has loaned us a water meter so that water sage can be determined to aid in waste water planning.

The Board also concluded that there was a need to continually monitor, review, and evaluate **THE MOUNTAIN**'s Long Range Plan. Friday evening, May 25th has been set aside for a full discussion. That date coincides with the May Board meeting and Life Members' Weekend. The meeting will be open to anyone attending the weekend.

### **Office Position Available**

Assist fund raising director with maintenance of membership and fund raising records. Typing skills and computer interest essential. Start immediately. Could be permanent. Contact **THE MOUNTAIN** for further details.

### **NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS**

Please change your records to reflect the address as now listed. The post office and **THE MOUNTAIN** appreciate it.



## MOUNTAIN's Fleet Grows

In response to our "Adopt A Boat" program announced in the last newsletter, we're pleased to say that 15 individuals have made contributions and had one of the MOUNTAIN's canoes, kayaks, or rafts named after them: *Shane Benedict, Julien Benjamin for K Deaver and Todd Deaver, The Blacksburg, VA Fellowship, Joan Cioffi, Susan B. Deaver, Dick and Barbara Gearhart, Alicia Hodges, Walt Hodges, Clinton Lawhorn, Valinda Parrish (Memorial), Carolyn Pratt, Chris Robinson, and Nancy Suda.* The whitewater enthusiasts thank you all!

We still have some rafts and kayaks available to be named the "UUS \_\_\_\_\_." Send \$200 to THE MOUNTAIN and tell us the name you want for your "Unitarian Universalist Ship." We'll soon have your boat ready for Spring trips on our beautiful rivers.

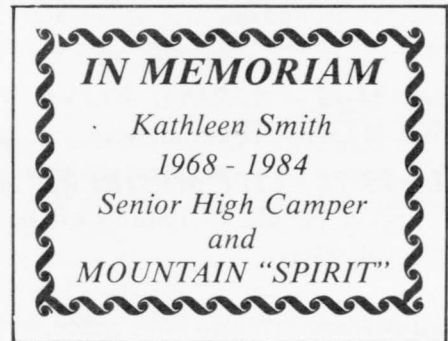
## Expanded Campership Program At THE MOUNTAIN

Youth camps at THE MOUNTAIN are our biggest success story, with enrollment increasing rapidly every year. Unfortunately, costs are growing too. However, the staff and Board of Trustees have made a commitment to expand the campership program so that every youth will have an opportunity to attend camp if they want to.

If you believe as we do, that building a lifetime appreciation for UU ideals and principles in our children is a goal of primary importance, this is an opportunity to support that goal.

We invite individuals, UU societies, or other organizations to contribute now to the campership program. Send a check today to THE MOUNTAIN. Be sure to mark it "Campership Fund."

If you have a son or daughter who needs a campership, write to Walt Pirie, 306 Eakin E., Blacksburg, VA 24060. State your reasons for needing a campership. If you don't ask, you'll never know if you could have had one!



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