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Contact: Jackie T. Thomson
Leapfrog Public Relations
jtyler@leapfrogprco.com

WNC Magazine Announces the History Issue Spotlighting Notable Figures in Western North Carolina's Past and Present

December 22, 2008 – Asheville, North Carolina – In *WNC* magazine's January/February issue, meet some of the region's most influential figures from the 19th century to today in "50 Most Influential People in Western North Carolina's History." This thoughtful assemblage of inventors, politicians, sports heroes and more is presented as a timeline of extraordinary individuals tied to the region. Also featured in this issue is the magazine's first-ever regional wedding guide – an insider's guide to Western North Carolina nuptials.

Editor-in-chief Eric Seeger led the efforts of gathering and assembling hundreds of photos and stories surrounding the 50 figures highlighted in this issue's feature story. In this month's Editor's Letter, Seeger elaborates, "I had the privilege of working closely with the history faculty at our regional universities. We could have easily included 100 people on the list and still felt like we were leaving out a good many names." Those who did make the cut include: George W. Vanderbilt (heir of the Vanderbilt fortune and builder of the magnificent Biltmore House), Doc Watson (blind yet brilliant musician and founder of Merlefest), Junior Johnson (former moonshine runner and NASCAR legend), Reverend Billy Graham (Christian evangelist and Montreat resident), and Olive Tilford Dargan (celebrated southern author and activist).

The 40-plus page special Wedding Guide includes regional resources, style tips, planning advice, and plenty of inspirational images. Discover two local weddings that capture the "mountain spirit" and plenty of ideas for big-day details. Editor Eric Seeger adds, "We have recognized there is a need for a resource to showcase the best of Western North Carolina to brides planning locally or from afar." Whether planning a ceremony in the mountains of Blowing Rock, on a farm near Hendersonville, or in the heart of downtown Asheville, *WNC* magazine's wedding supplement will have the region covered.

Also in the History issue, rediscover Hernando de Soto – a ruthless explorer who, with a band of conquistadors in tow, was the first European to reach the Mississippi by way of Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. "The Price of Gold" uncovers de Soto's bloody guile – unlike his positive portrayal in the history books. He was decidedly barbaric as he rounded the North Carolina Mountains slaughtering Native Americans in his search for gold.

Finally, discover a "green" clothing manufacturer in "Fashion Forward." With their beginnings as an organic T-shirt company, Daniel and Marylou Sanders have grown their business to encompass a series of lines sewn in the Carolinas and widely recognized as the first organic clothing collection.

WNC is a lifestyle magazine celebrating the unique people and cultures; arts, crafts and architecture; history; and food-ways of Western North Carolina. Each issue includes features on current issues facing residents; profiles on intriguing locals; and regular departments highlighting gorgeous homes, great weekend escapes, outdoor adventures, a calendar of regional events, and a comprehensive dining guide. Please visit www.wncmagazine.com to learn more.