Rhinehart Receives Heritage Award

Joe Rhinehart's the 1990 recipient of the Western Carolina University Mountain Heritage Award for his work in helping to preserve the history of the old Jackson county town of Webster, where he lives.

Rhinehart received the award during the celebration at Cullowhee Saturday of the annual Mountain Heritage Day.

Rhinehart grew up in Webster, attended elementary and high school there, was graduated from Pfeiffer College, received his master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and studied journalism at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

For 27 years he taught English and journalism in the Gaithersburg, Md. high school before retiring and returning to Webster.

He began there a work of writing, editing and study for which he received the award Saturday.

In 1974, he edited "The Webster Cookbook," based on early reflections of Jackson County life and food. It no is an out-of-print collector's book.

He became the editor of the Webster Historical Society's newsletter, "Historic Webster."

He edited "The Poems of Robert Lee Madison," WCU founder, producing a handset book that won the North Carolina Poetry Society's Charlotte Young Award as the best book of poetry in its year of publication.

A major work carried on by Rhinehart has been the identification of historic places in Webster and Jackson County.