

FEATURES

# Ross Hall: the mystery of Savannah Hill

By JAMIE WELCH

When Fall has taken center-stage, the mountains of North Carolina give us a mystical show. The mornings bring frozen dew, and as the fog lifts from the earth, the trees begin to blare their reds, yellows, and oranges. And as the sun sets, a deep and desolate darkness falls over the mountains and hills of Brevard. It is here in the cold, silent fall night that Savannah Hill comes alive.

As All Hallows Eve quickly approaches, what resides at the top of Savannah Hill gets the attention of the locals. Frances Ross Hall was built in the early 1900's on what used to be called Savannah Hill.

Originally built to be a summer home for tourist was later bought by Brevard Institute, who transformed



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contained a morgue for those soldiers whom died. Many years after the war, R. H. Zachary, a local farmer, built what is now called Ross Hall upon the old hospital grounds.

facility: Center for Recreation and Wilderness Education. However, the mysterious stories told by those who once lived there can still heard.

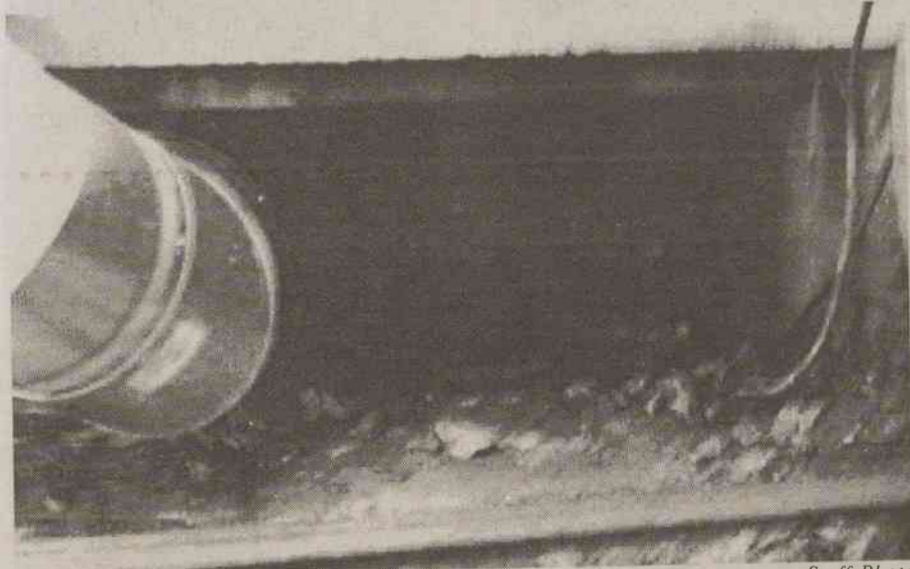
A local favorite seems to be the story of a girl who was mysteriously pushed down a flight of stairs falling to her death. Dying an untimely death her ghost is said to be one of Ross Hall's many. Ross Hall even has its own love story. Legend says that Ross was also a hospital during WWI. A soldier, while being nursed back to health fell in love with his nurse. However, one night a fire broke out in Ross trapping the soldiers beloved, as any man blinded by love, he went to rescue her from the flames. Unfortunately the soldier and his dame dies together in the flames. Today he wanders about in hopes that he will find her. Rumors, as they might be, many students have chosen to keep a safe distance from the haunted hll.

However there are those few

on campus that have kept their wits about them. Clyde Carter, Assistant Professor of Recreation and Wilderness Education, seems to be more reluctant to buy into the ghost theories. "I believe that many of the stories have been made up."

Mike Staton, working on his internship lives in Ross Hall as a caretaker, said, "I don't believe in ghosts, so the stories that I have heard are kind of hard to believe."

Whether or not ghosts and spirits are your thing it is certain that Savannah Hill and Ross Hall present a certain mystery. So as All Hallows Eve draws near and sun falls from the sky beware of the



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the summer home into a boy's dorm. However the legends of Savannah Hill date back to the late 1800's during the Civil War.

Clippings from *The Clarion*, dating as far back as 1935, reveal Savannah Hill housed a Civil War Hospital. The hospital basement

It is rumored that those who died and were kept in the cool, damp cellar have remained prisoners of Savannah Hill, lurking about the halls and rooms of Ross Hall.

Ross Hall functioned as a dorm up until 1995 when it was converted into an educational



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shadows of afar for they just maybe the ghosts of Savannah Hill.

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