

The Foothills View

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BOILING SPRINGS NC

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It's Icy Outside, But There's Warmth Inside

As ice blanketed the trees and streets of Boiling Springs, warmth still radiated from homes up and down Main Street, and nearby, as Christmas lights went on in homes and decorations welcomed visitors and cheered passers-by. The joy of the season radiated from manger scenes and doorways and windows all over town.

Noted Deacon Dies In Wreck

The death of James Albert Hickman in an accident on Highway 150 Monday left a grieving church congregation, as well as family and close friends.

Hickman, 41, a deacon and former Sunday School superintendent at Hopper's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Shelby, was killed when he apparently went to sleep at the wheel of his 1975 Chevrolet and crashed through a barbed wire fence and into a tree. The wreck, which happened near Shuford's garden store and greenhouses, occurred about 10 a.m.

Hickman had worked that morning at his third-shift job at the PPG plant at Washburn Switch. "He had come by our new church we're building on Graham St., and he was on his way home," said his minister, Rev. Wade Wallace, of Hopper's Chapel.

"He was very, very active in the church. He had a real close family, and they all worked in the church. We all are heartbroken," Rev. Wallace said. "It's been one of the most upsetting things that ever happened in our church."

The Hickmans have lived in the Boiling Springs area for several years. Their current home

is at 111 Victor Drive, in Phillips Heights. Originally from Darlington, S.C., Hickman was the son of James and Elizabeth Hickman. Several of his relatives live in the Boiling Springs-Shelby area.

The family met with friends Wednesday night at Hopper's Chapel before leaving for funeral services Thursday at Darlington. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Wallace at the Round-O Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Carrie Williamson Hickman, of the home; one son, James Albert Hickman, of the home; three daughters, Carolyn Hickman and Carrie Burnette Hickman, of the home, and Valerie Davis, of Darlington; three brothers, James Edward Hickman of Boiling Springs and John and Bobby Hickman of Darlington; seven sisters, Bertha Gattison, Kate Poole, Lucille Williams, Mary E. Hickman and Willemenia Williamson of Darlington, Barbara Richardson of Philadelphia and Ethel Mae Be

Shelby. Withrow's Home of Kings was in charge of the services.



Merry Christmas From The Foothills View Staff

Christian Youth Set At G-W

The Gardner-Webb College campus will open to young people of all ages on Saturday, January 14 when the college's B.E. Morris Academy for Christian Studies sponsors a Christian Youth Celebration.

A variety of activities are planned for area church youth groups, beginning with the 2 p.m. registration in the Kathleen N. Dover Theatre and concluding with the 7:30 p.m. basketball game between the G-W Bulldogs and the Mars Hill Lions.

"The afternoon will provide a mixture of entertainment, devotions and sports," said Garland Hendricks, director of the B.E. Morris Academy. "We want to introduce young people to the broader aspects of life. We also want to let them see what college life in a Christian atmosphere is like."

College faculty, staff and students will participate in the program, which according to Hendricks, "will both teach and inspire" the young people who attend.

A presentation by Gardner-Webb's basketball coaches and players along with inspirational and devotions by college min-

ister Monk Ashley, G-W religion professor Jack Partain and the associate director of admissions, Randy Kilby will highlight the afternoon's activities.

In the evening, following dinner in the college cafeteria, the young people will have the opportunity to see both the men's and women's basketball teams compete.

At 5:30 p.m. the Lady Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb will meet the Mars Hill Lady Lions followed by the men's game.

The cost of the Youth Celebration is \$4.50 per person and covers the entire day's activities including dinner and the sport events.

For more information about the Youth Celebration or to register, church youth directors may call Garland Hendricks, director of the B.E. Morris Academy at 704-434-2361 or write Gardner-Webb College, P.O. Box 328, Boiling Springs, N.C. The closing date for registration is January 10.



Deck The Halls With...Termites?

All Christmas memories of our homefolks in Boiling Springs are not bound up in snow and mistletoe. In the case of Gaines Washburn, he does remember the tree. It was a little pine, and it sat, probably wilting, beside a fireplace where there was no fire - nor none needed. It was summer, that Christmas, in that part of the world.

It was 1979, the year that the Washburns spent in Zambia, as volunteers to help Baptist missionaries build some houses. They also got caught up in the building of a Baptist Church.

It was not exactly the kind of structure that would pass the building inspector in Cleveland County. "But it passed all right over there," Gaines remembers. "The way they'll do, they'll dig a trench the size they want a building. Then they'll stick up sticks in it, and put the dirt back in around 'em. They'll use

forked sticks, and lay cross poles in 'em, and lace it all together with strip of bamboo."

The surrounding fields of elephant grass provided the traditional roofing. The harvest always provides a double yield, Gaines said. "Sometimes they'll burn off the grass and make the mice run. They're rich in protein." Mice are part of the local diet, as are termites and the other good protein source, a long caterpillar. "Looks like a tobacco worm," Gaines recalls.

It is not clear whether Gaines partook of that particular staple. One young missionary, a newcomer, did try to be one of the natives by helping himself liberally at what he thought was a termite hill. "They bit him back," Gaines remembers, with not too much sympathy. "He said, 'What did I do wrong?' Somebody said, 'You ate the wrong ants.'"

The unforgettable Christmas dinner was hosted by missionaries on a farm developed by the Baptist Church to lead in the improvement of local crops. None of the local delicacies were served that day, but the fare was unusual, in the Washburns' eyes, all the same.

For one thing, supplies were hard to come by. Guerillas, or someone's army, were always blowing up bridges, in local strife. There was no friendly grocer on the corner. So, the host bargained with a native for a suckling pig. Then he dug a pit and barbecued it. "That's literally the first time I ever say a whole pig on the table, head and all. No apple, though - they don't have apples there."

But they do have bananas and oranges and papayas and passion fruit, and the women all make bread, and the food that day was excellent, as well as memorable.



Washburn

The services in the church also made a long-lasting impression. "The pews are poles about six inches in diameter. You take an American, sittin' two or three hours on a six-inch pole..."

The barber shop was under a tree, next to the chicken plucker's. The village market was nearby, where you could buy a hand of bananas or a tow sack of little dried minnows. The nearest hospital was a bush operation staffed by Seventh Day Adventist missionaries, 30 miles away.

That is where Gaines had to go, when he developed a painful hernia. "A 75-year-old visiting specialist did the surgery," he remembers. "He did a spinal (anesthesia) and didn't give me so much as an aspirin afterward. And I never did hurt." Gaines' wife Lela Belle had some second thoughts, though, as she swatted several hundred mosquitoes in the cubicle with a broken window that would serve as the "recovery room."

Another unrelated illness brought Gaines, an Atomic Energy Commission retiree and now proprietor of the local Radio Shack, and his wife, home a short time before their planned year was up.

"We'd like to be back over there," he says now. As the ice rains down on Carolina, the warm African sun and gentle people are nice to think about.

Town Offices To Close For Holidays

The Boiling Springs Town Hall will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas. The town office will also be closed Jan. 2, the Monday following New Year's Day. Garbage service will be one day late both weeks.

The post office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 2.

